State of Missouri
2010 Final Broadband Award Report

mobroadbandnow

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I. LETTER FROM GOVERNOR JEREMIAH W. (JAY) NIXON

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JEREMIAH W. (JAY) NIXON

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October 6, 2010

Dear Fellow Missourians:

Missourians across this great state understand broadband access is critical to our educational and economic development in the 21st century. I personally hear this every day from the many citizens and business leaders I talk with as I travel across the state. We also receive letters and e-mails from every corner of the state concerned about the lack of broadband access -- pleading for interventions or improvements in access and price. Understandably, Missourians do not want any corner of the state left behind, because we all realize that our collective economic health is dependent on our ability to compete and succeed in the global economy.

I have been, and will remain, committed to bringing broadband access to all areas of the state. That is why I created the *MoBroadbandNow* initiative to develop a public-private partnership of multiple cooperative partners to build broadband access. My goal is to increase broadband accessibility from its current level of 79.7 percent to 95 percent within five years.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) passed by the federal government in 2009 provided funding to enhance broadband access, create public computing centers, develop sustainable broadband adoption efforts, document broadband availability through improved mapping, and increase planning activities to ensure that the infrastructure meets the needs of citizens and businesses.

Through the *MoBroadbandNow* initiative, Missouri has aggressively competed to bring broadband grants and loans to the state. I am proud to report that Missouri has been very successful in its efforts bringing in $261 million for 19 projects. These projects must be substantially complete within two years, which means that Missourians should begin to reap the benefits of improvements in the near future. This report provides documentation and information about the funded projects.

Many Missouri residents and businesses had little hope of realizing the benefits of competitive high-speed broadband in the near future without approval of grants from the federal agencies. I believe the awards received by Missouri companies will provide a dramatic leap forward for broadband access. Indeed, in Missouri the broadband network and projects completed will be the most lasting achievement of the ARRA.

The maps included in this report provide a graphic illustration of the current and future state of broadband access. In addition, you will also find a map highlighting two *MoBroadbandNow* supported proposals that were funded to create a middle-mile network with minimal overlap. I believe that the state's coordination was critical to accomplishing this. Each of these partners worked together to identify meeting points and means of cooperation to ensure the proper handoff of service and responsibilities where they intersect to ensure efficiency and cost effectiveness. That middle-mile capacity can then be offered to local providers who can decide if they want to extend service based on the better prices and speeds

that will be available. In addition, 15 last-mile projects were funded to bring broadband directly into the homes and businesses in areas of the state. Rounding out the 19 awards, were the Missouri Department of Higher Education's $5 million grant to create 23 public computing centers with 828 workstations at seven of the community colleges across the state, and the Office of Administration's $6.6 million grant for broadband mapping and planning activities.

The state intends to play a significant coordination role to help ensure the success of these projects. Our partnerships will give the citizens and businesses of this state a real opportunity to be at the forefront of the nation's broadband future.

While funding awards have been made and construction begins, there are still many opportunities for citizens and business leaders to be involved in the improvement of broadband access and services in Missouri. The Missouri Broadband Summit will take place in Jefferson City on October 26-27, 2010. The summit will kick-off a long-term planning effort to ensure continued enhancement of broadband access and ensure that the infrastructure meets the needs of citizens, businesses, and government. Following the Summit, broadband regional technology planning commissions will be created in each of the state's 19 regional planning commission areas. The commissions will include representatives from schools, higher education, libraries, workforce development agencies, health care, business and industry, local government, economic development, broadband providers, and many additional areas reflecting the interest and needs of the state. The regional broadband planning commissions will:

- Allow a collaborative approach to ensure that these investments, and those in the future, meet the needs of our citizens, businesses, and governments;

- Host at least three dedicated meetings over 18 months to help identify and discuss the needs, as well as strengths in each community; and

- Listen to the voices in their communities, assess the current status of broadband in the area, research and analyze the needs of the community; and ultimately develop and implement a strategic broadband and technology plan in each region.

I encourage all Missourians to participate in this process by attending meetings or reaching out to provide comments and input to local members of your regional technology planning commission. This grass roots effort is designed to allow you substantial input. As you can see, there is still plenty to do to make broadband a reality throughout the state. Thus, we encourage you to get involved today.

Likewise, I am continuing my commitment to ensuring the success of the funded projects and the improvement of broadband access for the citizens of Missouri.

Sincerely,

Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon, Governor
State of Missouri

II. MOBROADBANDNOW INITIATIVE

STATE'S BROADBAND HISTORY

1994

State government has been intimately involved in the development of broadband throughout the state since 1994 when the State of Missouri charted a course to provide funding for the **Missouri Research and Education Network (MOREnet)** to connect schools and libraries to the internet. State funding for higher education institutions was then added, making Missouri one of the first states in the country to fund a comprehensive, cost-effective, shared network for K-12, higher education, and public libraries. This shared network proved to be an efficient and cost-effective approach to meeting the growing bandwidth demands of the members. MOREnet grew to deliver internet connectivity and services to almost 800 entities throughout the state, including 519 K-12 school districts, 66 higher education sites, 133 public libraries, and 72 other entities.

2007

However, over time it became clear that broadband connectivity was going to be a crucial element for Missouri citizens in the 21st century to participate in education, the economy, and receive services. Demand for bandwidth supplied by MOREnet to its partners was growing exponentially. In addition, the call by citizens and business for broadband, particularly in rural underserved and unserved areas, grew significantly. In 2007, a 29 member **Rural High-Speed Internet Access Task Force** reviewed the needs of Missouri's rural communities. The task force held six public hearings throughout the state and published a preliminary report in 2008 and a completed report in 2009.

An important recommendation by the task force was that the State analyze internet accessibility and prepare maps for the bandwidth available and price of access throughout Missouri. The **Missouri Public Service Commission** had gathered information about access but not at the detail envisioned. As a result of that recommendation, the **Office of Administration** began working with the **University of Missouri Geographic Information Systems program**. That collaboration then grew into the mapping and planning project funded by the National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA) in 2009 as a result of funding being made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

2009 - 2010

ARRA *and MoBroadbandNow*

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) passed early in 2009, just two months into the term of the new Missouri governor, Jay Nixon. In response to passage of ARRA, Governor Nixon created the **Transform Missouri Initiative** to ensure that the State aggressively competed to obtain ARRA funds to stimulate the economy, ensure collaboration and coordination between agencies and governments, ensure transparency, and allow citizens to present ideas and suggestions to the State. Under the umbrella of Transform Missouri, the *MoBroadbandNow* initiative was created specifically to coordinate the efforts to obtain broadband expansion funding from the NTIA and RUS.

The federal stimulus bill (ARRA) provided $7.2 billion to expand access to broadband services. The USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS) received $2.5 billion in ARRA funding for loans, loan guarantees, and grants to businesses, nonprofits and governments for projects in rural areas. ARRA included $4.7 billion in funding for the NTIA to enhance broadband access, create public computing centers, develop sustainable adoption programs, and enhance mapping and planning activities. The United States Congress has since rescinded $302 million of this funding.
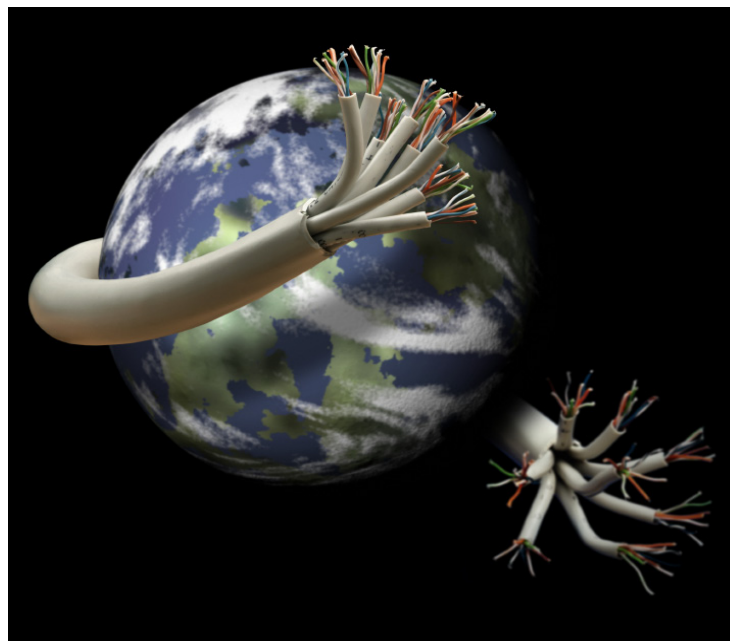
Round 1

Staff from the **Transform Missouri Initiative,** MOREnet, and other state departments, including Transportation, Economic Development, Agriculture, and the Office of Administration worked to develop the State's response to the ARRA's Round 1 Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA). The State prepared a detailed list of requirements and ideas and published an invitation to all middle-mile and last-mile providers to respond to our notice of interest to partner. The State received many responses from Missouri firms and also national firms. Overall, the State decided to partner with 11 entities for various aspects of Round 1. The State evaluated the middle-mile providers and held meetings before deciding to focus on a single Round 1 middle-mile application filed by **Sho-Me Technologies**.

Missouri did not receive a middle-mile award from the NTIA in Round 1. The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service (RUS) awards in Missouri were issued to Ralls County Electric Cooperative **($9,548,909 loan/$9,548,908 grant)** and to Unionville **($5,140,458 loan/$5,140,458 grant)** to provide broadband service. NTIA also awarded the Office of Administration approximately **$1.5 million** for broadband data collection and mapping activities and approximately **$470,000** for broadband planning activities over a two-year period in Missouri, bringing the total grant award to almost **$2 million**.

Round 2

With publication of the Round 2 NOFAs, the *MoBroadbandNow* initiative more aggressively worked to coordinate the State's efforts. Again the State published a notice of interest to entities and solicited partners and projects for middle-mile, last-mile, public computing centers, and sustainable adoption. Information about the State's efforts has been on the State's broadband site since early February 2010 and has been updated.

The State invited all interested parties to a meeting on February 5, 2010 to explain the new NOFAs and the State's interest in partnering with companies to expand broadband in Missouri by aggressively competing for the available federal funding. Outreach efforts for the meeting were conducted by the Office of Administration Information Services Division (OA-ITSD) and the Missouri Public Service Commission. As previously stated, the State also put the notice on the State's broadband website to reach additional providers. Likewise, at the NTIA's broadband workshop in Eureka, MO on February 2, the Deputy State Chief Information Officer announced to the audience that Missouri was holding an outreach meeting on February 5 and invited anyone interested to attend in person or via the a conference call hosted by the State. In addition, after the State received partnership submissions, staff from the OA-ITSD placed many additional phone calls to encourage participation.

Representative Rebecca McClanahan discusses broadband access at the BlueBird announcement in Kirksville, Mo.

A total of 36 people completed the signup sheet at the February 5 meeting. The group included lobbyists, equipment company representatives, telecommunications company representatives, consultants, staff from state agencies, and MOREnet staff. An estimated 15 participants joined the meeting via conference call. No pre-registration was required.

The State communicated to all participants that it wanted to find partners for Round 2. February 10 was denoted as the deadline for any company to notify the State of its interest in partnering in a Round 2 application. Following submissions of interest, information meetings and interviews were held with 11 entities to understand the proposals which focused on several funding categories – middle mile, last mile, and sustainable adoption. All of those interviewed strongly recommended that the State take the lead. All of those interviewed said that they were willing to work with others because they believed that the overlap and duplication in the Round 1 applications were a major factor in the State being relatively unsuccessful. There was a general consensus that the private parties must come forward with substantial match this time given the federal guidance and the lack of substantial state resources to commit toward Round 2 applications. There was general agreement that anchor institutions would be critical to the success of any Round 2 application.

At the interviews the State promised to consider whether it was possible to provide matching funds to assist partners. The State also promised that state staff and consultants would help with application development. In addition, state staff and consultants were willing to provide information and research as feasible to help complete any supporting documentation. Additional assistance was provided as requested by partners as feasible. The State indicated that its promise of assistance included both assistance in preparing the application, and assistance during the federal review of the applications.

The interviews and analysis of the information that was submitted were conducted by a team of subject-matter experts representing several state agencies including the Department of Transportation, the Public Service Commission, Office of Administration, and The Baller Herbst Law Group, P.C. The team reviewed each submission based upon the criteria applicable to federal grant applications under the January 2010 NOFA. Thereafter, the team identified those who it believed were most likely to receive funding, and who most closely aligned with the *MoBroadbandNow* vision.

Round 2 Recommendations

The State reevaluated its process and Round 1 applications to determine how to be more successful in Round 2. The State decided that for Round 2 the State needed to be more aggressive about coordination between firms and projects supported by *MoBroadbandNow*, thus reducing overlap between applications and costs. In addition, the State's budgetary situation meant that it had less money to put toward the federal matching requirements during this round, putting a premium on securing partners with a solid plan, the financial wherewithal, and commitment to ensure a successful project.

Gov. Nixon and Commissioner Simmons make Big River Broadband Announcement in Cape Girardeau, Mo.

The nine projects supported by the *MoBroadbandNow* initiative of the State of Missouri to the **NTIA** for Round 2 included:

Highly Recommended:

Comprehensive Communities Infrastructure Program

BlueBird Media, LLC
Sho-Me Technologies
Boycom Cablevision Inc.

Public Computing Centers

Missouri Department of Higher Education

Sustainable Broadband Adoption

Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities

Recommended:

Comprehensive Communities Infrastructure Program

American Fiber Systems
Springnet

Public Computing Centers/Sustainable Broadband Adoption

YourTel America, Inc.

The seven projects supported by the *MoBroadbandNow* initiative of the State of Missouri to the **USDA RUS** for Round 2 included:

Highly Recommended:

Big River Telephone
United Electric Cooperative
Co-Mo Electric Cooperative

Recommended:

Cass County
Socket Telecom, LLC
Finally Broadband, LLC
Rural Missouri Broadband

4

The three **MoBroadbandNow** supported proposals were coordinated to create a middle-mile network that covered most of the State of Missouri with minimal overlap. The State's coordination was critical to accomplishing that fact. Each of the three partners worked together to identify meeting points and means of cooperation to ensure the proper handoff of service and responsibilities where they intersect to ensure efficiency and cost effectiveness. The middle-mile capacity can then be offered to local providers who can decide if they want to extend service based on the better prices and speeds that will be available. In addition, the last-mile recommended projects included projects from throughout the state to bring broadband directly into homes and businesses.

The **MoBroadbandNow** initiative aggressively worked to highlight the importance of our recommended projects. Letters of support for our projects were delivered by the departments of state government and agencies most directly impacted by the benefits of broadband – the Office of Administration, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Department of Higher Education, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Health and Senior Services, the Department of Public Safety, the Department of Transportation, the Department

Claire McCaskill, U.S. Senator Christopher Bond, U.S. Representative Russ Carnahan, U.S. Representative Ike Skelton, U.S. Representative Emanuel Cleaver, and U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson.

MoBroadbandNow initiative leaders took its case directly to Washington D.C. to encourage support and funding for its recommended projects. Kelvin Simmons, the Commissioner of the Office of Administration, led a delegation of Missouri representatives, including leaders of the **MoBroadbandNow** applicants, to meet with the Congressional delegation and their staff, and the federal agencies. A comprehensive book highlighting the recommended applicants was submitted to the NTIA. That document was the most comprehensive submitted by any state and can be viewed at the following website.

http://transform.mo.gov/pdf/round2recommendations.pdf

## IMPACT OF BROADBAND ON MISSOURIANS AND STATE GOVERNMENT?

Missourians understand that broadband access is critical to our educational and economic development in the 21st century. The Governor created the **MoBroadbandNow** initiative to develop a public-private partnership of multiple cooperative partners to build broadband access. His goal is to increase broadband accessibility from its current level of 79.7 percent to 95 percent within five years. Missouri has been very successful in its efforts. The awards received by Missouri companies will provide a dramatic leap forward for broadband access all over the state.

> " As I have said from my first day in office, the State of Missouri was going to make broadband a top priority. Working hand in hand with our partners, we are competing for every dollar to transform communities across Missouri. "

of Economic Development, and the Public Service Commission. Support letters were also delivered by the Missouri Primary Care Association and MOREnet.

Missouri's Congressional delegation also joined with the **MoBroadbandNow** initiative in a bipartisan show of support for the projects and the state's efforts by delivering letters of support from U.S. Senator

Many Missouri residents and businesses had little hope of realizing the benefits of competitive high-speed broadband in the near future without approval of grants from the federal agencies. These projects must be substantially complete within two years, which means that Missourians should begin to reap the benefits of improvements in the near future. Indeed, in Missouri the broadband network and projects completed will be the
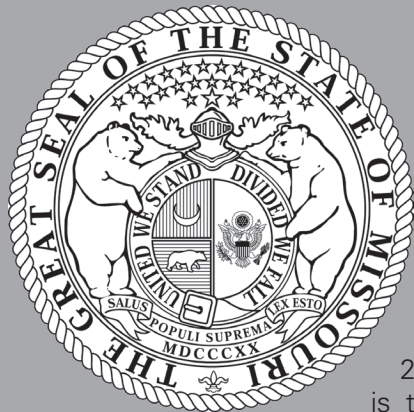
most lasting achievement of the ARRA.

Broadband access is becoming increasingly essential to economic competitiveness in the global economy of the 21st century. Broadband is the engine of job creation and economic growth for rural small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Missouri and has evolved as an essential infrastructure for positive economic impacts on businesses, healthcare, education, and government. From rural farmers marketing their products nationwide to start-up companies, broadband-dependent applications will allow SMEs to increase efficiency, improve market access, reduce costs and increase the speed of transactions. Benefits include innovations in transactions between businesses, telecommuting, online access to goods and services, boost speed of access to knowledge, on-line conferencing, social networking, cloud-based business software, and e-commerce. Rural consumers will benefit from on-line access to goods and services that are not readily available in their communities.

Access to broadband throughout the state will affect services in a variety of ways. The State of Missouri has been nationally recognized as a leader in the area of technology-savvy governments. The Center for Digital Government released its 2010 Digital States Survey, showing Missouri received one of the top grades among the states, a B+, for demonstrating technology best practices. Under Governor Nixon's leadership, the State's overall information technology system has undergone an unprecedented overhaul. Improvements and upgrades across state government include consolidation and collaboration of information technology services, which improves process efficiency; and the redesign and improved functionality of www.mo.gov, the State's website, making it easier to access online data and information. In addition, the introduction of social media has increased the State's ability to engage internal and external customers.

Here are some examples how individual State departments will be affected by broadband.

Office of Administration (OA)

The Office of Administration is the centralized statewide management agency for financial management functions (i.e. budget, accounting, and procurement), administrative functions (i.e. human resources and general services) and physical facilities (i.e. leasing, design and construction). Foremost, in these difficult economic times, it is essential that state governments improve the efficiency of its services. Broadband access will allow the State to drive out duplicate costs in human resources, as e-services are made increasingly possible and systems can be consolidated. Missouri is rated as one of the most transparent states for financial information. However, the State intends to improve access to financial information, public hearings, and other activities through the use of broadband.

Similarly, Missouri began consolidation of statewide information technology services into the Office of Administration several years ago. However, the full benefits (both financial and technological) will not be possible until broadband access is brought to Missouri citizens and to the diverse set of state agencies and facilities located throughout the state. The State owns more than 3,500 different facilities through 14 individual departments and the numerous divisions that exist within those departments. The Office of Administration oversees numerous facilities in the state's 114 counties and the City of St. Louis. These facilities need to be connected to the proposed middle-mile network directly or through last mile connections, thus improving communications for each department. Many state facilities do not have high-speed broadband access, while a potpourri of providers and technologies has been cobbled together over the past 15 years to try to improve or provide access.

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)

Without these projects, it would be many years before many areas of Missouri would have the broadband access necessary to participate in the 21st century economy and reach all children to improve their skills and economic competitiveness. Missouri intends to push aggressively forward with education reform efforts on several fronts: curriculum and testing; expanding the role of technology in schools; expanding educational services and options before kindergarten; improving the way teachers are evaluated, rewarded and supported; focusing resources on low-performing schools; and revamping the structure of the state education agency, among others. This is an ambitious agenda that will require collaboration and cooperation with all stakeholders. The availability of broadband to the school districts is critical to the testing and evaluation systems being designed. The bandwidth required by schools will dramatically increase over the next ten years as these reforms are implemented. DESE's plan is designed to propel Missouri's public education system into the top ten, nationally and internationally; and broadband is a significant component of its ability to accomplish these goals.

Department of Higher Education (DHE)

The **MoBroadbandNow** funded projects will help leverage the Missouri Department of Higher Education's $5 million Round 2 award to create 23 public computing centers with 736 workstations at seven community colleges. These facilities will provide public access with knowledgeable staff and courses in basic digital literacy and technology careers. Moreover, the centers will function as one-stop technology centers for launching new careers with a specific focus on unemployed and underemployed citizens. The computer centers will be located on college campuses and will also provide mobile computer technology to bring broadband access to vulnerable populations in Missouri communities.

Access to broadband is critical to the goals of Missouri's statewide plan for higher education adopted by the Coordinating Board (http://dhe.mo.gov/files/CoordinatedPlan.pdf). These goals are to increase educational attainment, to develop a 21st century workforce and competitive global economy, and to enhance resources through investment, good stewardship, and shared responsibility. Participation in Missouri's **MoBroadbandNow** initiative will help Missouri to achieve those goals by:

- enabling higher education institutions to provide distance education and reach non-traditional learners through course redesign and alternative methods of program delivery;

- reducing costs by increasing the opportunities for high quality distance education;

- providing opportunities for institutions to share resources and reduce the costs of back office operations, thus reducing pressure to raise tuition;

- assisting institutions to develop corporate links to access customized training and learning opportunities that have been unavailable in many corners of the state; and

- increasing the number of new businesses linked to research or development incubators associated with higher education institutions.

Department of Corrections (DOC)

The Department of Corrections expects to be significantly impacted by broadband access. Providing inmates with medical care is difficult and costly. Basic care is provided in the institutions but millions of dollars of staff time is spent each year transporting inmates to hospitals or specialty care. In addition to being

costly, a security risk arises each time an inmate is transported outside the institution. The department has anticipated the future availability of broadband and has been working to upgrade the internal infrastructure necessary to utilize tele-health in correctional facilities. In addition, the department had the foresight in its current medical contract to require the medical vendor to provide tele-health equipment, i.e. video conferencing equipment and medical peripherals at their cost should broadband become available. High quality broadband

will provide the visual quality needed for medical diagnoses. The department intends to utilize tele-health for some medical services, such as cardiology, dermatology, orthopedics, ophthalmology, general surgery, gastroenterology, urology vascular surgery, neurology, oncology, and ear, nose and throat (ENT). This will reduce the transportation costs the department incurs to escort offenders out of secure facilities to medical providers that are sometimes hours away. This will improve public safety by keeping offenders secure in the facilities.

In addition, the department has been working with the Office of State Courts Administrator (OSCA) and other local jurisdictions to allow for inmate court appearances to be handled over broadband. The courts and the department will aggressively pursue such projects because they will substantially decrease the costs of transporting prisoners and also eliminate the security risks associated with such transportation.

Department of Economic Development (DED)

DED believes that broadband is the engine of job creation and economic growth for rural small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Missouri. Broadband has evolved as an essential infrastructure for positive economic impacts on businesses, healthcare, education, and government. From rural farmers marketing their

dependant applications will allow SMEs to increase efficiency, improve market access, reduce costs, and increase the speed of transactions between businesses, telecommunicating, online access to goods and services, boost the speed of access to knowledge, and e-commerce. Also, broadband access to the department's one-stop employment centers will further assist the unemployed and those seeking better employment to identify contacts and resources. Rural consumers will benefit from online access to goods and services that are not readily available in their communities.

Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS)

Missouri has 114 local public health agencies and ten area agencies on aging across the state. Broadband access will allow the department, the local public health agencies, and the area agencies on aging to increase e-government services to citizens throughout the state that have never had an opportunity to seriously use the capabilities available. Bringing tele-health to the local public health clinics or the home will be a dramatic improvement and save countless hours and cost for all involved. Broadband will provide the opportunity to bring high level medical expertise to all areas of the State to address the disparity of medical care. Broadband opens the possibility of enabling specialists to reside in Missouri and yet practice anywhere.

The ARRA provides funding for broadband and health information technology and thus presents a unique opportunity to leverage funding to make major improvements in both. DHSS is working with the Missouri Department of Social Services (DSS) to access federal funds to plan, design, and implement a health information exchange that will encourage the adoption and use of electronic health records and allow for the exchange of health information across institutions and providers. Access to broadband by doctors, hospitals, community health centers, and other medical providers is essential to ensure that there is meaningful use of the new health information technology.

Department of Public Safety (DPS)

The department has been working to develop a resilient interoperable communications infrastructure to support its public safety community. The 9-1-1 Centers/ public safety answering points (PSAPs) are critical to connecting all citizens to emergency services.

The department is working with PSAPs all over the state to enable law enforcement officers and other first responders to receive digital data in their vehicles. Such robust communications are critical to the health and safety of citizens and those working in public safety occupations.

The Office of Homeland Security intends to work to integrate broadband with improvements and upgrades being made to existing interoperable communications initiatives such as the proposed web enabled Missouri Uniform Law Enforcement System upgrade, Missouri Data Exchange (MoDEX) for law enforcement, and the Mobile Data Terminal initiative for local law enforcement agencies. A statewide data network could add resiliency and positively impact future interoperable communications initiatives in the department's PSAPs, emergency management operations centers, and other public safety areas. Connectivity will play an increasingly important role in disaster response as it will further enable the increasing use of geographical information system data for emergencies and ongoing public safety operations.

Department of Transportation (MoDOT)

MoDOT manages over 32,000 miles of right-of-way along Missouri roads and needs more of its 300-plus facilities connected with higher broadband capacity. As broadband becomes available it will be possible to evaluate road conditions remotely, provide notification to emergency agencies, and information about conditions to the department and the public. Informational notices will also be possible regarding detours, drive time, alternate routes, and other items important to travelers.

Department of Social Services (DSS)

DSS operates a nationally recognized program for youth offenders in facilities across the state. Improved broadband access should enable the department to expand the educational programs delivered to these youth, thus providing the training and skills necessary to further reduce recidivism and improve their chances in life. In addition, DSS provides safety-net services in offices in every county of the state, which would not be necessary with improved broadband access. DSS will also benefit from broadband given their federally-assigned responsibility for driving the use of health-information technology to providers throughout the state to help reduce medical costs and improve accuracy of treatment.

Department of Mental Health (DMH)

DMH has facilities located throughout the state, many of which are in rural areas where they were placed many decades ago. Broadband access is not available, expensive, or slow in these areas. Professional services, such as psychiatry, are increasingly difficult to provide at these rural facilities because providers are not willing to move to the area.

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF
MENTAL HEALTH

Department of Revenue (DOR)

DOR is working to deploy "green" initiatives to reduce energy, staff time and other print and mailing costs associated with their primary functions, including collecting taxes, titling and registering motor vehicles, and issuing driver licenses. Instituting electronic notifications to citizens (via email) will reduce current print and mail notices, as well as serve as an e-service that is more citizen-centric. Mandated trips to the license offices throughout the state will be eliminated, as citizens who have reliable broadband may renew their licenses at their convenience, and in the luxury of their home or business.

Governor Nixon and Commissioner Simmons announce Sho-Me Technology Broadband Award at Ozark Technical Co mmunity College

"Broadband access is becoming increasingly essential to economic competitiveness in the global economy of the 21st century. Broadband is the engine of job creation and economic growth for rural small and medium enterprises in Missouri and has evolved as an essential infrastructure for positive economic impact on business, healthcare, education, and government."

David Kerr, Director
Missouri Department of Economic Development

III. MISSOURI AWARD WINNERS

mobroadbandnow

MOBROADBANDNOW

The **MoBroadbandNow** initiative was created by Governor Nixon to coordinate the state's efforts to aggressively compete to bring broadband funding to Missouri in response to the federal recovery bill passed in 2009. The State, through its **MoBroadbandNow** initiative, worked to secure partners with a solid plan, the financial wherewithal, and commitment to ensure a successful project. The federal stimulus bill (ARRA) provided $7.2 billion to expand access to broadband services. The United States Congress has since rescinded $302 million of the $7.2 billion allotted for broadband. In September, the federal agencies completed their awards. Between the two federal agencies Missouri brought in $261 million for 19 projects.

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

The USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS) was provided $2.5 billion for loans, loan guarantees, and grants to businesses, nonprofits and governments for projects in rural areas. Missouri received $177.7 million for projects in whole or in part in the state, including $121.7 million in grants and $56 million in loans.

• The following grants were awarded to *MoBroadbandNow* supported projects:

Ralls County Electric Cooperative - $19.1 million ($9.55 million loan/$9.55 million grant) to provide a fiber optic network to residential and commercial members and the underserved safety and anchor agencies in the service area.

Big River Telephone - $24.4 million ($12.2 million grant/$12.2 million loan) awarded to create a broadband network that will reach 90 percent of the homes in the seven county areas including the counties of Washington, St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve, Perry, Cape Girardeau, Madison, and Bollinger at a total project cost of $33.9 million. It will provide access to 44,697 households and 7,511 businesses, and 311 anchor institutions. The state has endorsed the project with $150,000 in matching funds.

Socket Telecom - $23.7 million ($16.6 million grant/$7.1 million loan) awarded to provide a fiber-to-the-home project in portions of eastern Boone County and western Callaway County. In addition to the rural areas within this territory Socket's service territory will include the community of Millersburg and portions of Fulton. The project will provide access to 3,033 homes and 36 critical community facilities.

United Electric Cooperative - $21.2 million ($14.8 million grant/$6.4 million loan) awarded to bring last-mile broadband infrastructure to six counties in northwest Missouri, including the counties of Andrew, Buchanan, Clinton, Dekalb, Gentry, and Nodaway. The network spans 1,370 miles with a total project cost is $21.2 million. The system will offer advanced broadband applications directly to 4,224 households and 58 businesses in rural, underserved portions of Northwest Missouri. Furthermore, the United fiber network will provide the opportunity for up to 150 critical community anchor institutions, including 21 rural communities, 33 school facilities, 38 health facilities, 31 public safety entities, five libraries and three prisons to connect.

Cass County - $26 million ($18.2 million grant/$7.8 million loan) application submitted to construct a Last Mile, Fiber-To-The-Home (FTTH) 1,286 mile network to enable 100 Mbps broadband service, SmartGrid/ Green Grid energy management services, video, VoIP telephony, distance learning, tele-medicine, and other advanced broadband applications. The project will be available to 18 communities, 11,592 households, 701 businesses, and 118 critical community anchor institutions within 625 square miles of unserved and underserved areas of rural Cass County. The proposed rural service area consists of 624 square miles which represents 90 percent of Cass County.

Finally Broadband, LLC - $998,000 (half grant/half loan)for a 100 percent rural service area located in Southwest Missouri serving the following counties: Texas, Wright, Webster and portions of Christian, Taney, Ozark, Dallas, Douglas, Greene, Phelps, Pulaski, Laclede, Shannon, and Howell. The broadband services will pass 45,782 households, 7,484 businesses and 404 Community Anchor Points in 4,563 square miles of area and serve 37 Census Designated Places and a population of 118,569.

• **Other Missouri projects receiving awards from the USDA, include:**

Grand River Mutual Telephone Company - $33.7 million awarded for four projects for Sullivan/Linn counties, Worth/Gentry/Harrison counties, Lathrop, and Powersville.

Northeast Missouri Rural Telephone Company - $17.5 million awarded for two projects for Unionville and Green City, Missouri.

Windstream Corporation - $10.3 million awarded for a project to be implemented in the counties of Polk, Pulaski, Maries, Phelps, Miller, Ripley, Morgan, Wayne, Greene, Oregon, Putnam, Barry, Benton, Lawrence, Butler, McDonald, Newton, and Daviess.

Orchard Farm Telephone Co. - $604,794 for a St. Charles county project to build a broadband network that will pass 142 rural, unserved premises (92 residential households, 47 businesses and three critical community facilities/public safety entities), affording them access to high speed broadband service (20 Mbps upstream and downstream combined).

Utopian Wireless Corporation - $249,731 to bring WiMAX infrastructure to rural communities in and around Benton, Missouri. More than 2,600 people, approximately 56 local businesses and 30 community institutions stand to benefit from this improved service.

National Telecommunications Information and Administration (NTIA)

NITA was provided $4.7 billion through ARRA funding. Missouri received $83.3 million for projects to enhance broadband access, public computing centers and mapping and planning activities.

1. **Broadband Access** - Approximately $3.75 billion was available from the NTIA for competitive grants to construct, deploy, and ensure broadband access. The following *MoBroadbandNow* supported projects received awards:

BlueBird Media - $45.1 million to construct 809 miles of new fiber and 44 new microwave towers across the region to bring high-speed Internet access to a largely underserved and economically distressed 59-county region in the northern part of the state. The project connects as many as 350 community anchor institutions, including 213 K-12 public school buildings, 60 public safety entities, 10 community colleges, 30 healthcare facilities, and 28 government facilities. It will facilitate more affordable and accessible broadband service for up to approximately 600,000 households and 57,000 businesses by enabling local Internet service providers to utilize the project's open network.

Sho-Me Technologies - $26.6 million to bring middle-mile broadband infrastructure to 30 counties in south central Missouri with a population of over one million people at a total project cost is $38 million. The network encompasses 1,380 miles of fiber optic cable, including 500 miles of new fiber. Of the 229 communities represented in the 30 counties, 136 communities fall within a half mile of the proposed network. There are more than 6,000 health care and social assistance businesses in the service area, as well as, 140 school districts and 69 libraries. Sho-Me's fiber will pass or connect 100 community anchor institutions including schools, higher education institutions, libraries, medical and healthcare providers and many others.

2. **Public Computing Centers** - Approximately $200 million was available from the NTIA for grants for expanding public computer center capacity, including at community colleges and libraries. Supported *MoBroadbandNow* projects receiving awards, include:

Missouri Department of Higher Education - **$5 million** to create 23 public computing centers with 828 workstations at seven community colleges (Jefferson College, Metropolitan Community College, Mineral Area Community College, Moberly Area Community College, Ozarks Technical College, St. Louis Community College, and Three Rivers Community College).

3. **Mapping and Planning** - Approximately $350 million was available for broadband mapping and planning activities.

Missouri received **$6.6 million** for mapping and planning activities, including $1,973,382 in Round 1 funding and $4,600,000 in Round 2 funding. This includes $3.9 million for mapping broadband access throughout the state and $2.7 million for planning activities designed to identify community needs. The state will provide an additional $1.6 million in match for these activities.

Missouri Broadband Awards

Awardee	FEDERAL AWARD		MATCH		Total Project Value
	Grant	Loan	Cash Match	In-Kind Match	
MOBROADBANDNOW AWARDS					
MO Department of Higher Education	$4,978,977	$0	$0	$1,629,359	$6,608,336
Blue Bird Media	$45,145,250	$0	$9,158,100	$10,500,000	$64,803,350
Sho-Me Technologies	$26,600,000	$0	$2,600,000	$8,800,000	$38,000,000
Ralls County Electric Cooperative	$9,548,908	$9,548,909	$950,000	$0	$20,047,817
Big River Telephone	$12,190,784	$12,191,271	$5,216,385	$4,325,600	$33,924,040
Socket Telecom, LLC	$16,614,137	$7,120,345	$0	$0	$23,734,482
United Electric Cooperative	$14,849,173	$6,363,933	$0	$0	$21,213,106
Cass County	$18,205,578	$7,802,391	$0	$00	$26,007,969
Finally Broadband LLC	$499,000	$499,000	$1,474,901	$120,000	$2,592,901
Subtotal *MOBroadbandNow* Partners	**$148,631,807**	**$43,525,849**	**$19,399,386**	**$25,374,959**	**$236,932,001**
Office of Administration	$4,600,000	$0	$1,150,000	$0	$5,750,000
Office of Administration	$1,973,382	$0	$493,346	$0	$2,466,728
Subtotal Office of Administration	**$6,573,382**	**$0**	**$1,643,346**	**$0**	**$8,216,728**
Subtotal *MoBroadbandNow* Projects	**$155,205,189**	**$43,525,849**	**$21,042,732**	**$25,374,959**	**$245,148,729**
OTHER MISSOURI AWARDS					
Grand River Mutual Telephone Corp. - Area 1 (Lathrop, MO)	$7,976,924	$3,418,682	$0	$0	$11,395,606
Grand River Mutual Telephone Corp. - Area 2 (Sullivan/Linn Counties)	$12,363,759	$0	$0	$0	$12,363,759
Grand River Mutual Telephone Corp. - Area 3 (Worth/Gentry/Harrison Counties)	$8,970,781	$0	$0	$0	$8,970,781
Grand River Mutual Telephone Corp. - Area 5 (Powersville, MO)**	$647,046	$277,305	$0	$0	$924,351
Northeast Missouri Rural Telephone Company	$3,595,810	$3,595,810	$0	$0	$7,191,620
Northeast Missouri Rural Telephone Company (Unionville)	$5,140,458	$5,140,458	$0	$0	$10,280,916
Orchard Farm Telephone Company	$604,794	$0	$201,598	$0	$806,392
Utopian Wireless	$187,298	$62,433	$0	$0	$249,731
Windstream Corporation	$10,328,319	$0	$3,442,774	$0	$13,771,093
Other Missouri Awards Subtotal	**$49,815,189**	**$12,494,688**	**$3,644,372**	**$0**	**$65,954,249**
GRAND TOTAL ROUND 1 AND ROUND 2	**$205,020,378**	**$56,020,537**	**$24,687,104**	**$25,374,959**	**$311,102,978**

**Only the Powersville, MO cost is shown of this $20.3 million award that also includes four towns in Iowa.

	BlueBird Media, LLC	Sho-Me Technologies	Total
NTIA AWARD	**$45,145,250**	**$26,600,000**	**$71,745,250**
ANCHOR INSTITUTIONS			
Schools (K-12)	60	31	91
Libraries	24	36	60
Medical & Healthcare Providers	45	5	50
Public Safety Entities	60	2	62
Community Colleges	21	3	24
Public Housing	0	0	0
Other Institutions of Higher Ed	10	5	15
Other Community Support Organizations	15	0	15
Other Government Facilities	75	18	93
Subtotal of Anchor Institutions	310	100	410
JOBS CREATED			
Direct Jobs-Years	706	66	772
Indirect Jobs-Years	328	118	446
Jobs Induced	397	104	501
MILES NEW FIBER - MIDDLE MILE	**981**	**500**	**1,481**
MILES NEW FIBER - LAST MILE	**0**	**0**	**0**
MICROWAVE MILES	**250**	**0**	**250**

> "They have the potential to connect doctors and patients at the speed of light; open doors of our colleges and universities to more students; and expand markets for small businesses to not only the rest of the state, but to markets across the globe."
>
> *– Governor Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon*

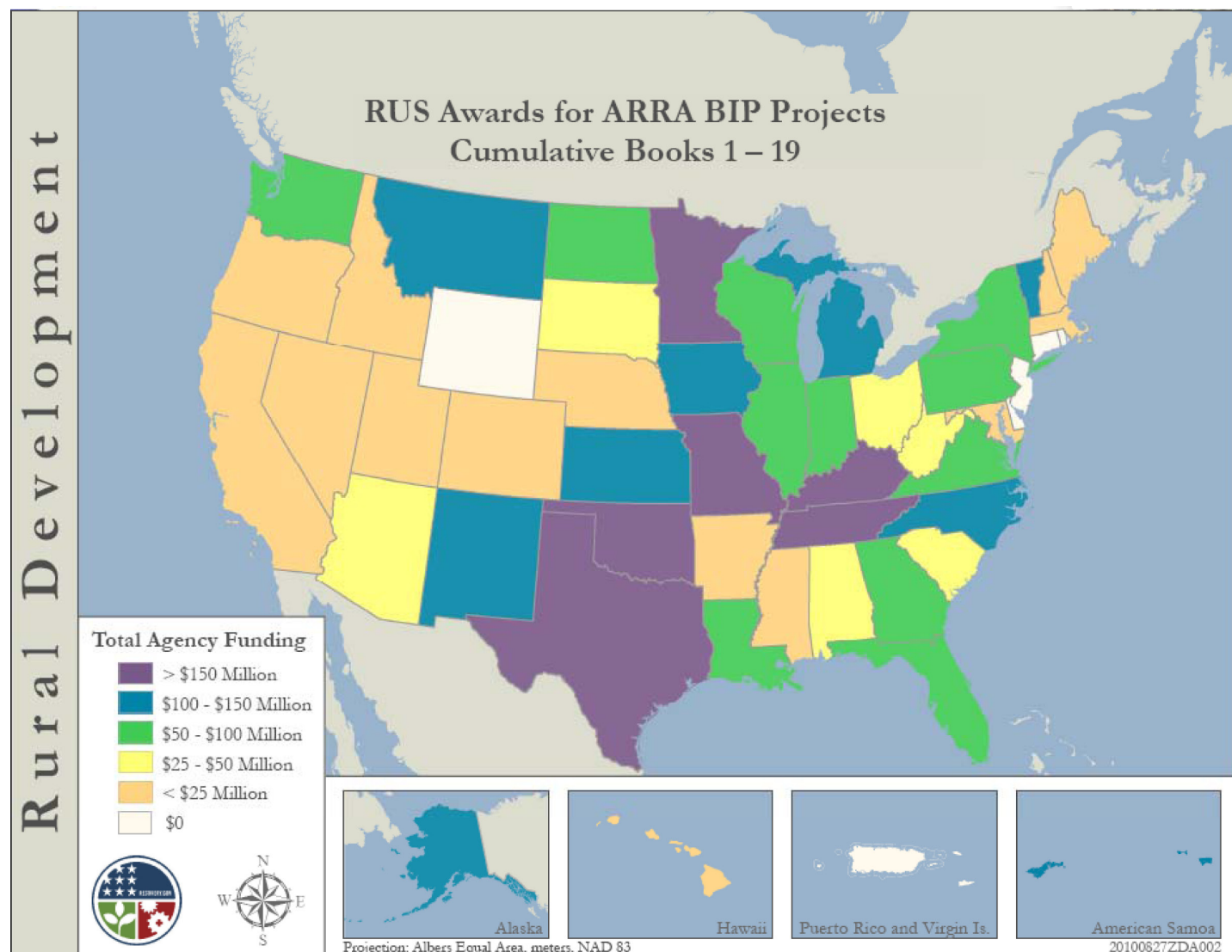| MISSOURI AWARDEES			
	Grant	**Loan**	**Total**
Ralls County Electric Cooperative	$9,548,908	$9,548,909	$19,097,817
Big River Telephone	$12,190,784	$12,191,271	$24,382,055
Socket Telecom, LLC	$16,614,137	$7,120,345	$23,734,482
United Electric Cooperative	$14,849,173	$6,363,933	$21,213,106
Cass County	$18,205,578	$7,802,391	$26,007,969
Finally Broadband LLC	$499,000	$499,000	$998,000
Grand River Mutual Telephone Corp - Area 1 (Lathrop, MO)	$7,976,924	$3,418,682	$11,395,606
Grand River Mutual Telephone Corp - Area 2 (Sullivan/Linn Counties)	$12,363,759	$0	$12,363,759
Grand River Mutual Telephone Corp - Area 3 (Worth/Gentry/Harrison Counties)	$8,970,781	$0	$8,970,781
Grand River Mutual Telephone Corp - Area 5 (Powersville, MO)	$647,046	$277,305	$924,351
Northeast Missouri Rural Telephone Company (Green City)	$3,595,810	$3,595,810	$7,191,620
Northeast Missouri Rural Telephone Company (Unionville)	$5,140,458	$5,140,458	$10,280,916
Orchard Farm Telephone Company	$604,794	$0	$604,794
Utopian Wireless	$187,298	$62,433	$249,731
Windstream Corporation	$10,328,319	$0	$10,328,319
TOTAL	**$121,722,769**	**$56,020,537**	**$177,743,306**

IMPORTANT STATISTICS							
	Federal Award and Cash Investment	**Total Anchor Institutions**	**$ per Anchor**	**Premises Passed**	**$ per Premise**	**Jobs Created**	**$ per Job**
Ralls County Electric Cooperative	$20,047,817	58	$345,652	4,905	$4,087	40	$501,195
Big River Telephone	$29,598,440	311	$95,172	52,789	$561	1,370	$21,605
Socket Telecom, LLC	$23,734,482	36	$659,291	3,033	$7,825	525	$45,209
United Electric Cooperative	$21,213,106	150	$141,421	4,432	$4,786	113	$187,727
Cass County	$26,007,969	118	$220,407	11,188	$2,325	138	$188,464
Finally Broadband LLC	$2,472,901	404	$6,121	53,670	$46	7	$353,272
Grand River Mutual Telephone Corp.	$33,654,497	44	$764,875	4,371	$7,699	71	$474,007
Northeast Mo. Rural Telephone Co.	$17,472,536	50	$349,451	2,635	$6,631	196	$89,146
Orchard Farm Telephone Co.	$806,392	3	$268,797	142	$5,679	16	$50,400
Utopian Wireless	$249,731	30	$8,324	1,161	$215	14	$17,838
Windstream Corp.	$13,771,093	39	$353,105	4,551	$3,026	229	$60,136
TOTAL	**$189,028,964**	**1,243**		**142,877**		**2,719**	

RUS National Awards Map
Cumulative Awards by State (including round one)

- **Missouri is one of only six states to receive more than $150 million from the RUS.**
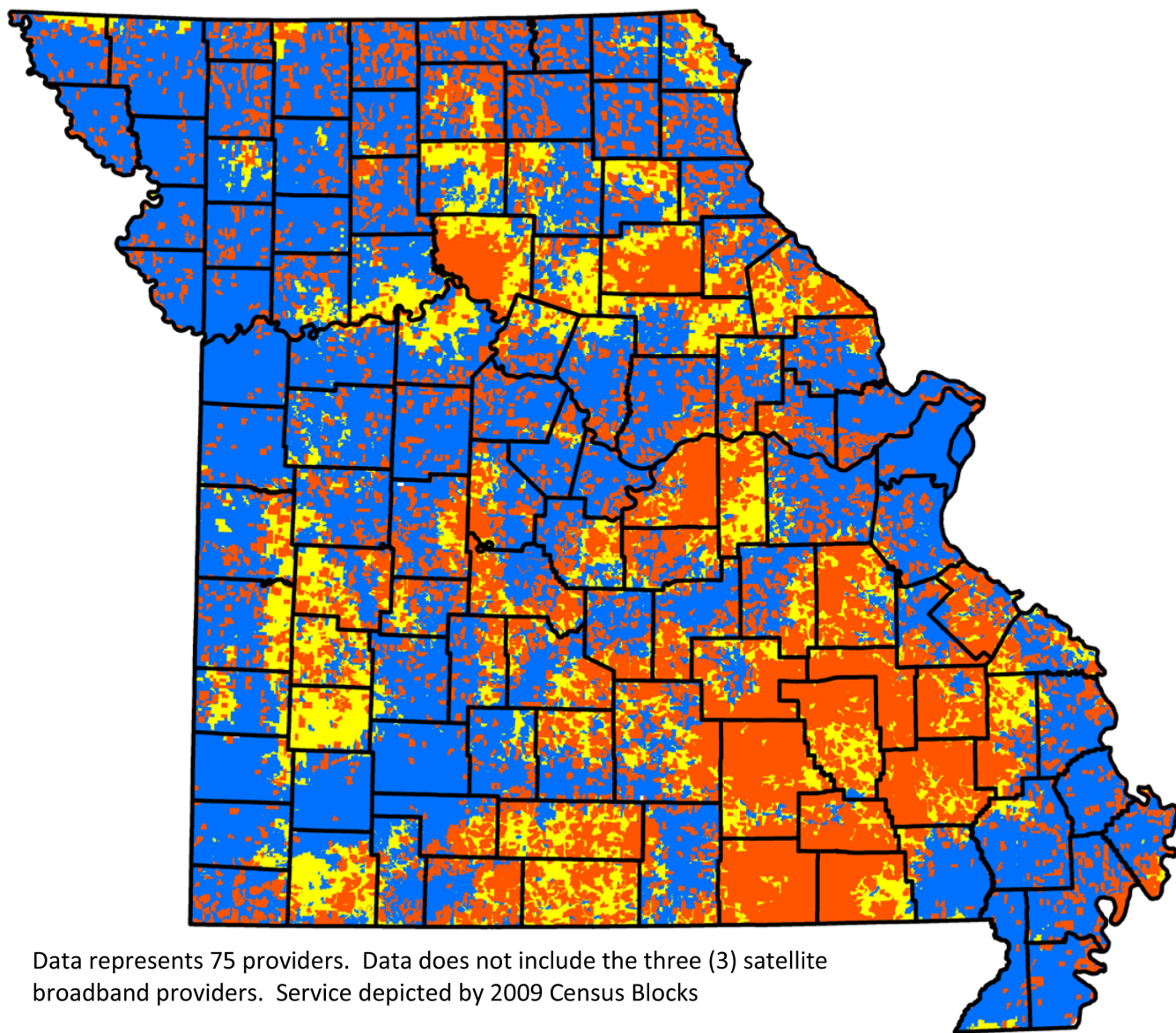

RUS Awards for ARRA BIP Projects
Cumulative Books 1 – 19

Total Agency Funding
- > $150 Million
- $100 - $150 Million
- $50 - $100 Million
- $25 - $50 Million
- < $25 Million
- $0

Alaska Hawaii Puerto Rico and Virgin Is. American Samoa
Projection: Albers Equal Area, meters, NAD 83

IV. MAPS

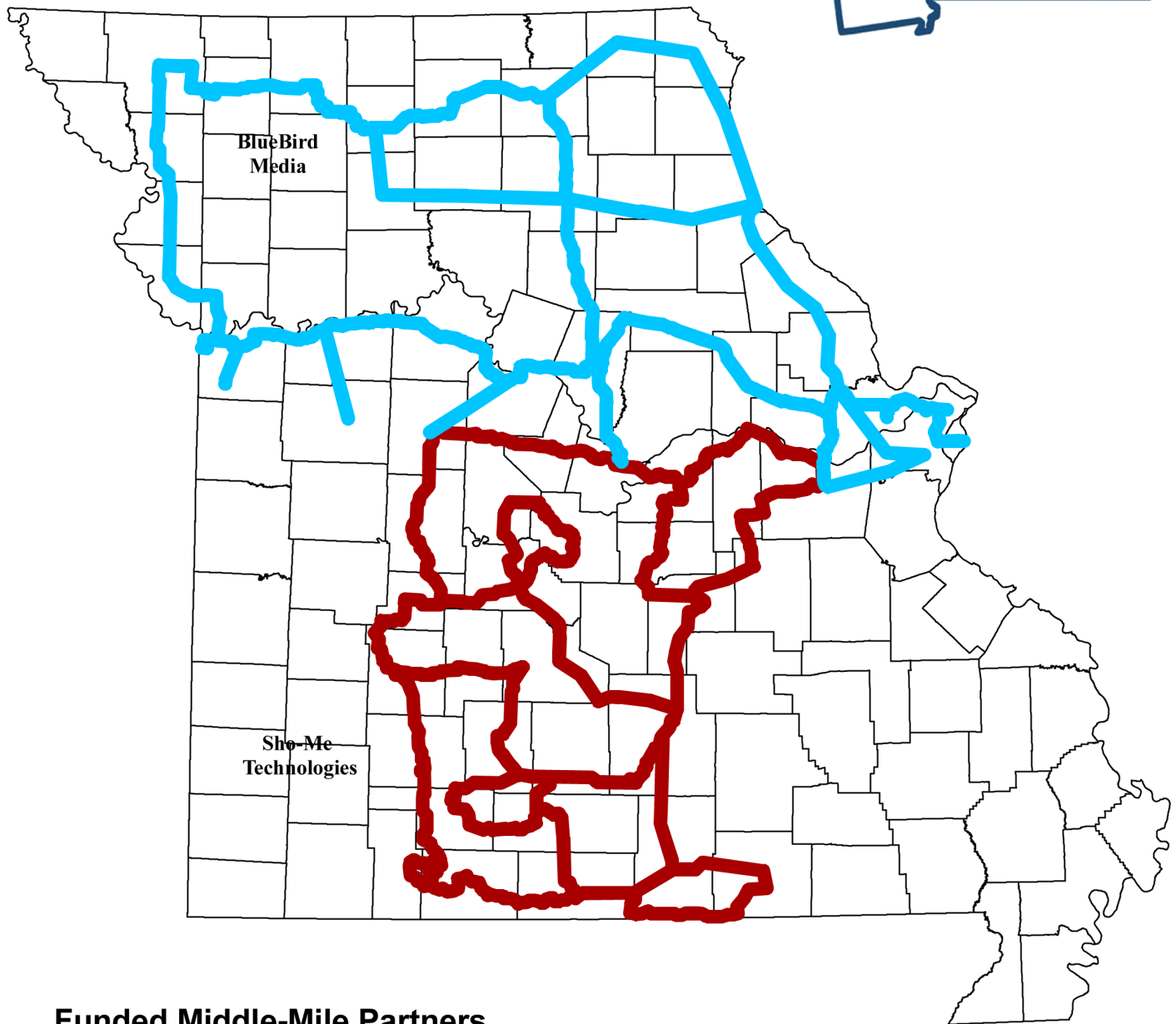# IV. Block Groups Underserved by Broadband Service

As of October 1, 2010 Submission

Data represents 75 providers. Data does not include the three (3) satellite broadband providers. Service depicted by 2009 Census Blocks
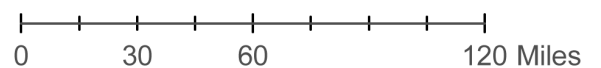
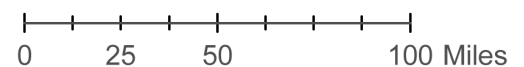|	
🟧	**Unserved – No Broadband Providers beyond Satellite**
🟨	**Underserved – 1 Broadband Provider beyond Satellite**
🟦	**Served – More than 1 Broadband Provider beyond Satellite**

Missouri Middle-Mile Awards

BlueBird
Media

Sho-Me
Technologies

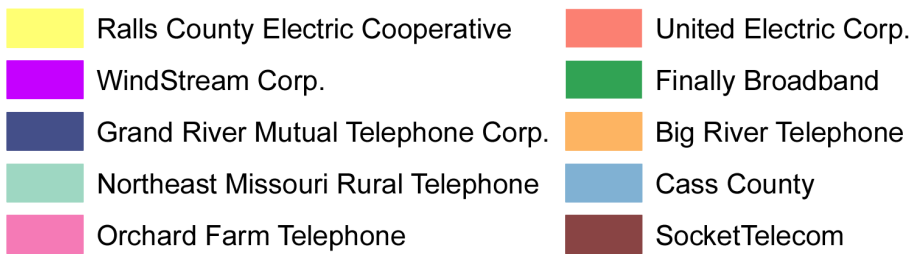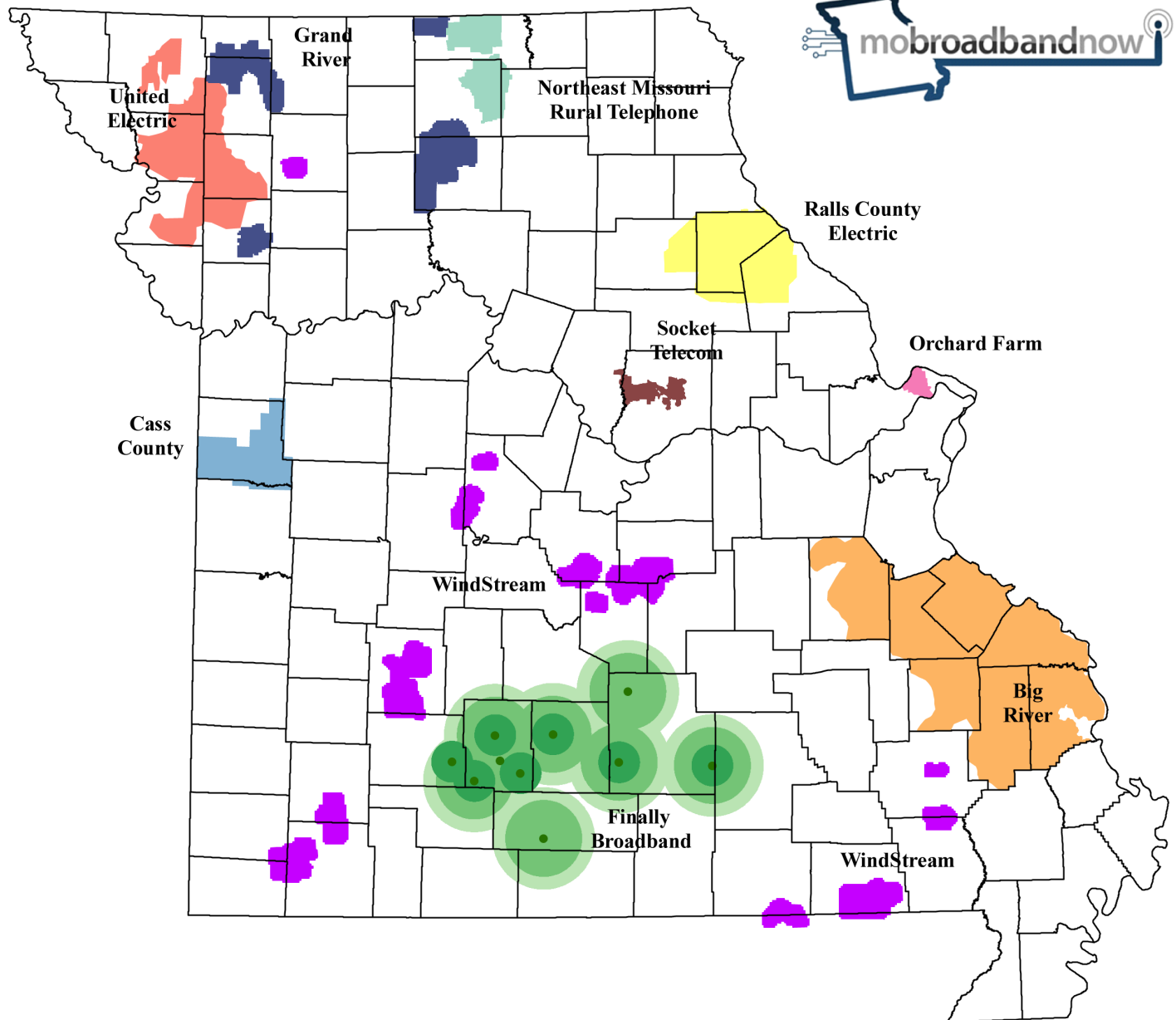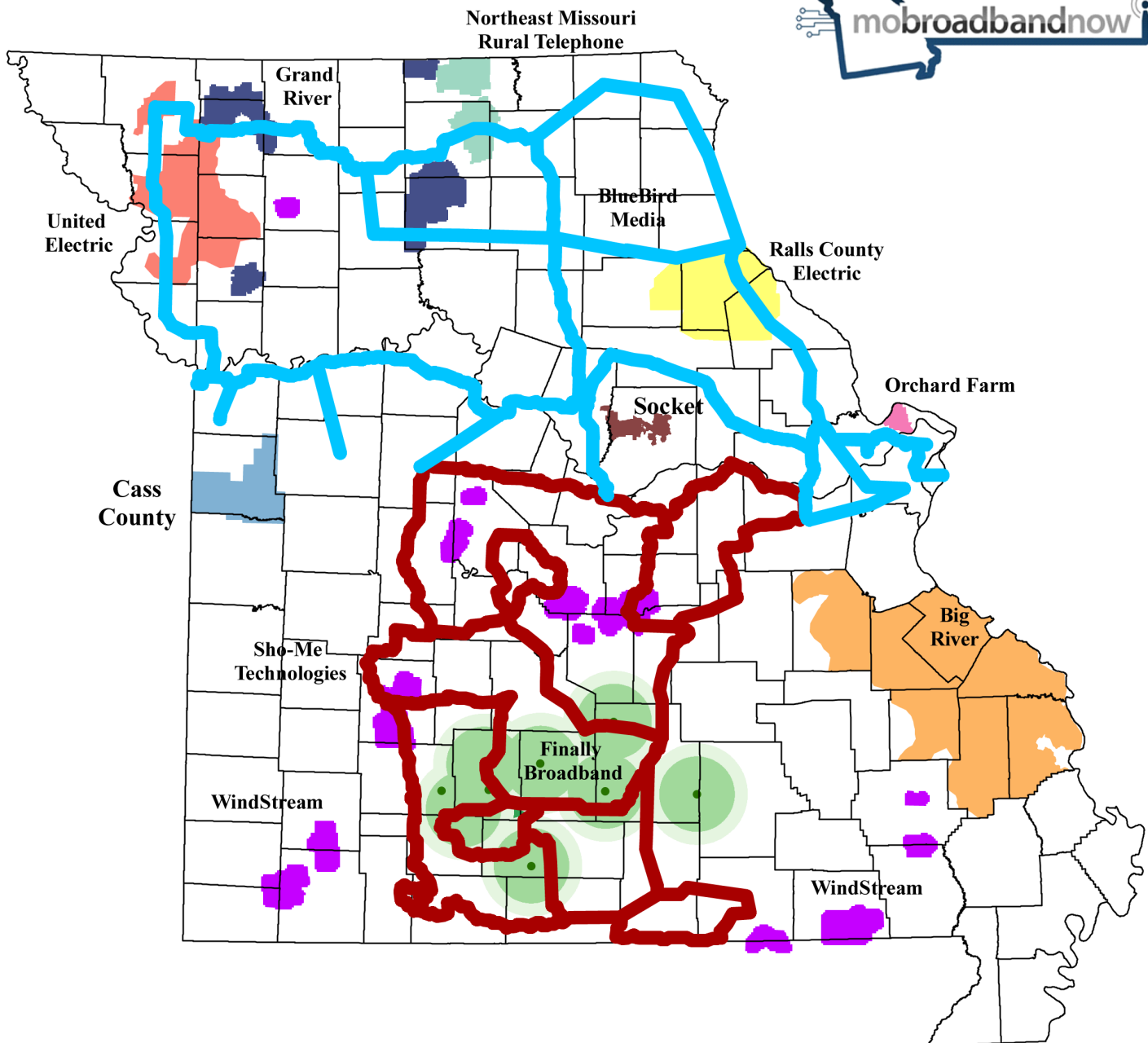**Funded Middle-Mile Partners**

BlueBird Media
Sho-Me Technologies

0   30   60   120 Miles

Missouri Last-Mile Awards

Ralls County Electric Cooperative

United Electric Corp.

WindStream Corp.

Finally Broadband

Grand River Mutual Telephone Corp.

Big River Telephone

Northeast Missouri Rural Telephone

Cass County

Orchard Farm Telephone

SocketTelecom

0   25   50   100 Miles

Total Missouri
Middle and Last-Mile Broadband Awards

mobroadbandnow

Northeast Missouri
Rural Telephone

Grand
River

BlueBird
Media

Ralls County
Electric

United
Electric

Orchard Farm

Socket

Cass
County

Sho-Me
Technologies

Big
River

Finally
Broadband

WindStream

WindStream

�	BlueBird Media	▰pink	Orchard Farm Telephone
▰darkred	Sho-Me Technologies	▰salmon	United Electric Corp.
▰yellow	Ralls County Electric Cooperative	▰green	Finally Broadband
▰magenta	WindStream Corp.	▰orange	Big River
▰navy	Grand River Mutual Telephone Corp.	▰lightblue	CassCounty
▰lightgreen	Northeast Missouri Rural Telephone	▰brown	SocketTelecom

0   30   60   120 Miles

V. MIDDLE-MILE AWARD WINNERS

V. Summary of Middle-Mile Award Winners

 BlueBird Media

Bluebird Media is a public-private partnership, committed to developing an ultra-high capacity GigE middle-mile-network throughout underserved and disadvantaged areas in Northern Missouri. Our broadband fiber network will offer last-mile providers next generation bandwidth speeds at economically competitive prices. Additionally, our service will provide support to local community anchor institutions, including local governments, schools and hospitals, and promote the creation of jobs and a better quality of life.

Bluebird Media is committed to expanding broadband infrastructure and high-speed Internet access throughout rural and underserved areas. We believe our plan to increase broadband Internet access will benefit the citizens, business and the State of Missouri by:

- Servicing Internet providers in rural and underserved communities

- Being carrier neutral, allowing access to ALL service providers

- Being the first truly fiber GigE network in Northern Missouri

> "We are thrilled about this opportunity to bring 21st century technology to Missouri's most rural counties. Our network will be a vehicle for northern Missouri residents to compete fairly with the urban communities for job creation and help attract and retain a talented workforce. Bluebird media will afford public safety, the medical community, courts, and schools with the tools they need to meet the demands of the future."
>
> *Eric Fogle,* CEO Bluebird Media

PROPOSED SERVICES

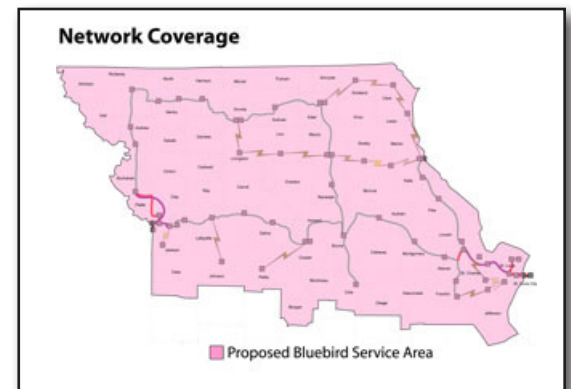Bluebird will develop a comprehensive network comprised mainly of Ethernet Broadband Technology. Bluebird will provide bandwidth at a low cost to last-mile providers and institutions. Additional services

available will include video and Voice Over IP. Services will be available at speeds of 30 Meg, 100 Meg, 500 Meg and 1 GigE throughout our coverage area.

Bluebird will use a reliable and cost effective hybrid IT Ethernet broadband solution together with a proven fiber/microwave network. The network will have a minimum of 1 GigE access expandable to 1 Terabit level which will help develop all last mile networks to support data, voice, and video communication, enabling a broad range of fixed and mobile application for public and private systems.

COVERAGE

The geographical area that will be affected is Northern Missouri, including 59 counties, plus the City of St. Louis equaling approximately 33, 000 square miles, and over 1 million households and 100,000 businesses.

COMMUNITY ANCHOR INSTITUTIONS

The geographical area contains over 2,000 critical community institutions ranging from fire, police, libraries, schools, courthouses, utilities and wastewater treatment facilities.

INTERCONNECT OBLIGATIONS

Bluebird will be building a robust infrastructure network that will be able to service multiple providers. This additional capacity will allow easy expansion for any new entrant in the service area.

Otto Maly, partner in Bluebird Media, talks about constructing an ultra-high capacity middlemile network making broadband affordable and accessible.

Bluebird's innovative broadband technology will seamlessly integrate and augment existing networks and dramatically expand services with a simpler, faster, cost-effective backbone.

BROADBAND SYSTEM

Bluebird's innovative broadband network solutions are the ideal technology for delivering high-demand applications such as broadband Internet access, video services, security surveillance, telemedicine, VoIP, and other emerging technologies.

Bluebird's broadband technology combines field proven durability with exceptional performance, security, and ease-of-use and cost effectiveness. It significantly reduces the time to design and deploy new commercial and enterprise broadband networks.

Gov. Jay Nixon announces the 45.1 million federal grant to expand the availability of broadband Internet. The Governor's BroadbandNOW initiative helped secure federal funds for middle and last mile broadband projects.

Summary of Middle-Mile Award Winners

Sho-Me Technologies

Sho-Me Technologies, a subsidiary of Sho-Me Power Electric Cooperative, of Marshfield, MO, has applied for and been awarded a grant to extend broadband services to rural Missouri. Sho-Me Technologies will use its grant of $26.6 million from the U.S. Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to enhance and expand its fiber optic middle-mile network to 66,000 business and more than 260,000 households in 30 counties across southern and central Missouri. The 1,380 mile network will be the backbone infrastructure for last-mile providers to deliver broadband to homes, businesses, schools, libraries, hospitals, public safety agencies and other facilities. The company will provide a match of $11.4 million to the federal grant, for a total project cost of approximately $38 million.

The counties served by Sho-Me Technologies include: Benton, Camden, Christian, Cole, Cooper, Crawford, Dallas, Douglas, Franklin, Gasconade, Greene, Hickory, Howell, Laclede, Maries, Miller, Moniteau, Morgan, Oregon, Osage, Ozark, Pettis, Phelps, Polk, Shannon, Stone, Taney, Texas, Webster and Wright.

> " Just as the railroads and interstates transformed Missouri communities in decades past, these projects will help connect much of northern Missouri with the information superhighway of the future. They have the potential to connect doctors and patients at the speed of light; open the doors of our colleges and universities to more students; and expand markets for small businesses to not only the rest of the state, but to markets across the globe. "
>
> *– Governor Jay Nixon*

Sho-Me Technologies has operated an advanced optical network since 1997. Sho-Me Technologies' fiber optic network now spans over 2,000 miles, with over 120 points of presence, the highest coverage of optical bandwidth in the area. The company has extensive experience with federal grants and loans, including a recent $90 million loan guarantee from the US Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service.

BROADBAND USA
CONNECTING AMERICA'S COMMUNITIES

![Map of Missouri showing the Sho-Me Technologies and MoBroadBandNow proposed fiber network]

Community Anchor Institutions Connected

Public Safety	2
K – 12	31
Libraries	36
Government	18
Community Colleges	3
Higher Education	5
Health Care	5
Total	100

Project Value: $38 Million
In-Kind Contribution: $11.4 Million
Grant Request: $26.6 Million
1,380 Miles of Fiber Optic Cable
30 Counties
102 Direct Job Years

Legend:
- Proposed Point of Presence (31)
- Existing Point of Presence (58)
- The Mountain Complex
- Sho-Me Technologies NOC
- Proposed Fiber Route
- Existing In-Kind Fiber
- Existing Sho-Me Technologies Network

" We are very pleased at the opportunity to be a part of the *MoBroadBandNow* initiative and the shared mission to expand affordable and reliable broadband access throughout rural Missouri. Our project will expedite the availability of broadband services to those south central rural communities who have not yet attained the broadband advantage that larger communities now enjoy. We'd like to thank the State of Missouri for their continued support and leadership as we work toward our shared common goal of serving the needs of rural Missouri. "

– Gary L. Fulks, the CEO of Sho-Me Technologies, LLC.

VI. LAST MILE AWARD WINNERS

mobroadbandnow

VI. Summary of Last-Mile Award Winners

Ralls County

Ralls County Electric Cooperative (RCEC) a member-owned, non-profit cooperative, is building a last mile, open access, fiber-to-the-home network to serve 4,594 households, 311 businesses, and 58 community anchor institutions, public safety entities, and critical community organizations within our service area comprised of 1,223 continuous census blocks in rural northeast Missouri.

RCEC will build this fiber network along our electric distribution right-of-way to bring advanced broadband services to unserved and underserved residents. Our fiber network will also enable "Smart Grid" technologies, including AMI and AMR, revitalize local economic development and create sustainable jobs for our members and communities. The network will cost $19.0 million to construct.

Initially RCEC intends to offer not only broadband access but will also offer triple-play broadband bundles from multiple Internet, video and voice providers and innovative distance learning, tele-medicine, government and public safety applications. RCEC has a BIP 50 percent/50 percent grant/loan combination from Rural Utilities Services. The RCEC service area is in steep economic decline. The major county in the area has lost 23 percent of its non-farm jobs in the last eight years. The population is stagnant, growing less than .3 percent per year. The area population is older and less educated compared to state and national statistics. The area is largely agricultural, and although it does not technically qualify as remote, the only city of size is 70 driving miles from the service area border and has a population of 52,291.

The funded service area is 100 percent rural, entirely underserved, with the majority unserved. Based on our market survey over 85 percent of our customers have computers, but only 38 percent have access to an advertised broadband service that meets the minimum speed defined in the NOFA and less than 3 percent subscribe to broadband (as defined). However, 96 percent indicated they are likely to switch to our broadband service at the speeds and prices detailed in the application. The lack of broadband access is a significant reason for the jobs decline as evidenced by the many letters of community support from businesses, farms and local economic development agencies which are included in the service area and prior public hearing testimony.

Because of the topography of the land and dense forestation, fixed wireless does not work. RCEC's fixed wireless service is in its fifth year and the results show less than 25 percent of RCEC customers can connect to the wireless solution when requested.

Our proposed, passive optical fiber-to-the-home network is capable of delivering 100Mbps symmetrical broadband service while concurrently delivering a host of other applications including full digital HD video and unlimited telephone services. RCEC forecast service to 2,000 broadband customers but believe this is conservative since RCEC will have a full triple play offering available to all RCEC members when the service is connected at their home.

Historically, deploying fiber has not been financially feasible in rural markets. However, the combination of Pulse's less costly FTTH design/build, using our pole-grid and rights-of-way, coupled with our non-profit financial status makes this project work. The RCEC project is sponsored by the state of Missouri as a last mile demonstration project and non-proprietary data will be shared. When successful, the model can be expanded to other co-ops. BIP seed capital for our project should encourage others to enter the market using private financing.

RCEC has started the project and will complete it within eighteen months. RCEC plans to begin offering broadband access to our first customers within one-two months. RCEC owns the rights-of-way.

Fiber is the best technology available to create and sustain jobs because it enables advanced applications for business, medicine, and education.

RCEC's partner, Pulse Broadband, has managed the design, engineering and walk-out for the construction of over 50,000 miles of plant. All key construction, equipment and head-end contractors and vendors are on the project. The fiber-to-the-home solution used by Pulse has been successfully deployed for the last three years. The design and construction has already been evaluated and approved by the RUS and it uses RUS-approved components. Both RCEC and Pulse have had direct prior experience with RUS projects and know what to expect, how to access and account for the money, and how to comply with government audit and oversight regulations.

The fiber will follow the existing pole grid, with minimal ecological and environmental disruption. The design is also green, since it does not require excessive power to amplify or repeat signal delivery. The deployment will create approximately 35-40 new construction, installation, maintenance, and customer service positions. It is estimated that broadband over fiber will add 1,352 non-farm jobs over the next 10 years. Fiber is the best technology available to create and sustain jobs because it enables advanced applications for business, medicine, and education.

RCEC has provided electric service to this area for over 72 years and intend to do the same with our fiber network through our for-profit subsidiary, Ralls Technologies, LLC. Over the years RCEC was instrumental in bringing positive change to the community. RCEC provided startup capital for Ralls County 911 and office space for five years and funded emergency generators to ensure water in northeast Missouri. (RCEC WILL DEDICATE 10 percent OF FREE CASH FLOW FROM BROADBAND OPERATIONS FOR LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOANS AND GRANTS). RCEC will provide discounted broadband service to community anchor, public safety, and critical community organizations, and qualifying SBA 8(a) disadvantaged small businesses.

Summary of Last-Mile Award Winners

Big River Broadband

BUSINESS FOCUS

Big River Broadband's goal is to eliminate the digital divide by delivering broadband internet services to schools, health care providers and the economically disadvantaged.

REGIONAL IMPACT

Education

The delivery of broadband to students and schools in rural areas will make resources available not yet deployed in this area.

- Only 32 percent of students in K-12 have broadband at home.
- Service would be available to 61 area elementary and high schools, and to the homes of the students.
- Will provide online learning resources such as Google Earth, YouTube, online books, etc.
- Facilitate online teacher/student collaboration such as live chat for homework assistance, video conferencing, broadcast live events, etc.
- Facilitate online parent/teacher communication such as parent notification system, progress reports, etc.

Health Care

- Improve health care diagnostic and preventative support between hospitals, doctors and patients.
- Facilitate handling of electronic health care records to reduce associated costs.

Economic Development

- Create an estimated 1,300 jobs by building and managing the broadband network.
- Expand economic reach of local businesses.
- Increase opportunities and quality of life for this under served area by providing the latest communication technologies.

> "Dial-up service is the only option for many in these areas. Our county phone lines are so poor that students can only achieve speeds of 12-15 kbps, which is unacceptable to view online multimedia formats."
>
> — *Nancy Toombs,* Director of Technology Ste. Genevieve R-II School District

> "As the economic development organization for this area we believe that broadband in rural Missouri will help expand opportunities for business and residents of rural Missouri."
>
> — *D. Mitch Robinson, CEcD* Executive Director, Cape Girardeau Area MAGNET

SERVICE AREA

Coverage

- Only 29 percent of households currently have high-speed access.
- Area includes Washington, St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve, Madison, Perry, Bollinger and Cape Girardeau counties.
- Will reach 90 percent of homes in the seven county area.
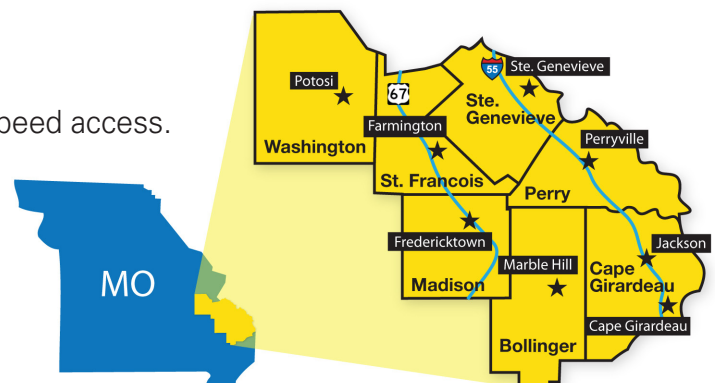
BIG RIVER DEVELOPMENTS

Solution Centers

Four centers will be the premier technology educational resources for the area. Consumers will learn how to improve their lives and create new opportunities for themselves using technology. Specialist in each store will be trained as experts in several technologies. They will assist with:

- Broadband, telephone and mobile
- Business and residential networking
- Computer set up and support
- Productivity software installation and training
- Educating people on how to use digital devices
- Training local businesses on using technology applications
- Web design support
- Technology education for schools, community centers, and libraries
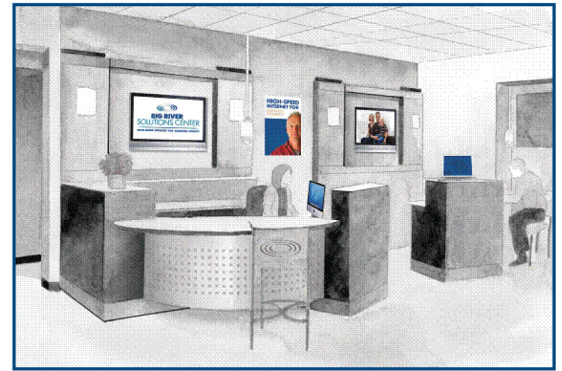- Educating consumer on the use of internet tools such as web searching, social media, geographic/mapping apps and online privacy practices.

Stimulus Deployment

- Receiving $24 million in funds ($12 million grant, $12 million loan)
- Building our network using the Advanced Wireless Spectrum that was acquired in a government auction in 2006.
- AWS technology has been widely deployed in metropolitan areas over the last 12 months.
- Will offer entry level 5 Mbps service for $14.00 per month.
- Will open seven solution centers throughout the service area.

Big River Employment

- New broadband division of Big River has been created.
- Project to created 1,300 jobs, mostly in construction of the network.
- 74 new staff jobs at Big River.
- Staff jobs will include:
  - IT
  - Network Operations
  - Customer service
- Benefits include 100 percent paid health care, 401k, vacation, personal days, sick days, etc.

ABOUT BIG RIVER

Big River Telephone Company is a full-service telecommunications company that operates across the United States, headquartered in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Big River Telephone is one of the oldest competitive telephone companies in the United States. Founded in 1983 as a long distance carrier, Big River Telephone has evolved over the years into one of the premier Competitive Local Exchange Carriers (CLEC) in the United States. In addition to being successful CLEC, Big River telephone is one of the market leaders in delivering wholesale Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) in 15 states.

Summary of Last-Mile Award Winners

Socket Telecom, LLC

ABOUT SOCKET

While the "Digital Divide" has diminished in recent years, a significant gap still exists today. Since Socket's inception in 1995, its roots have been in connecting rural Missouri communities to the Internet. Socket has a strong history of providing voice or data service in previously unserved areas. This focus has enabled Socket to become a leader in delivering services to rural areas providing xDSL and reliable dial-up Internet access to more Missouri areas than any other company.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Socket's project addresses an opportunity to provide high-speed broadband access to rural mid-Missouri over a fiber-optic network. As newer and more advanced applications are developed, bandwidth demand will continue to increase. Those bandwidth demands can best be met by fiber to the home networks. With Socket's proposed project, more than 3,000 homes and businesses predominately in rural Callaway County will be offered service with fiber optic cable directly to their home. Customers will be able to obtain access to true 21st-century telecommunications with speeds up to 20 Mbps.

Legend:
- Proposed Funded Service Area (PFSA)
- Callaway County
- Boone County
- Part of Fulton, Mo (Not included in PFSA)

36 critical community institutions (CCI) identified by the State of Missouri will be offered service with Socket's proposed network. Of these, 11 have provided letters of support for our project. In addition, Socket will also offer discounted services to disadvantaged small businesses under Section 8(a) of the SBA.

Socket estimates at least 65 jobs to be created or saved as a result of this project. This includes 20 direct Socket jobs and 45 contract labor jobs, as well as additional indirect jobs. The direct jobs will be the result of increases in Socket's internal staff to support the building and ongoing maintenance of the network and supporting the customers who will utilize it.

IMPACT ON COMMUNITY

Socket proposes to provide services and applications in the proposed funded service area via a fiber-to-the-home broadband infrastructure. Subscribers will have access to **telephone, video, and broadband Internet access** services. Broadband Internet services will be capable of delivering **telemedicine**, telecommuting, distance learning, and other advance applications. Telemedicine applications are especially critical for users in rural areas where people may be otherwise required to travel for advanced healthcare services. Providing advanced **telecommuting** applications allows residents of rural areas
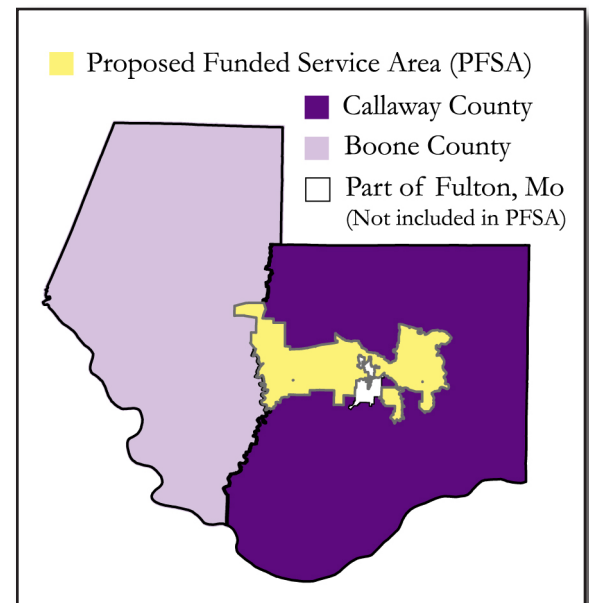
3,033	**65**	**36**	**$16.6 million**
Premises Passed	Jobs Created	Critical Community Institutions	Federal Grant Request

to potentially compete for jobs virtually anywhere without leaving their rural community. **Distance learning** will give full-time students the opportunity to virtually attend classes from around the world, as well as allow non-traditional students the ability to take classes outside work hours.

Socket's project promotes **rural economic development** by expanding availability of advanced network services and broadband Internet services to rural communities at an affordable price. This enhances the attractiveness of the rural middle region of the State of Missouri to entrepreneurs and corporations seeking to begin operations or expand operations into these areas meeting the fundamental day-to-day business need for communications and information access and exchange through the availability of and access to broadband Internet services.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Governor Jay Nixon
Blaine Luetkemeyer, U.S. House of Representatives
Kurt Schaefer, Missouri Senate
Carl Vogel, Missouri Senate
Chris Kelly, Missouri House of Representatives
Jeanie Riddle, Missouri House of Representatives
Lee Fritz, Callaway County Commission
Doc Kritzer, Callaway County Commission
Gabe Craighead, Callaway County Commission
Charles Latham, Fulton Mayor
William Johnson, Fulton City Administrator
Dr. Jacque Cowherd, Fulton Public Schools
Steve Myers, Fulton Police Department
Dean Buffington, Fulton Fire Department
Derek Back, Millersburg Fire Protection district
Nancy Lewis, Callaway Chamber of Commerce
Linda Ellis, Callaway County Ambulance District
John Hoagland, Missouri Rural Water Association
Barbara Garrison, Missouri School for the Deaf
Scott Lowe, Westminster College
Mary Ann Beahon, William Woods University
Andy Ames, OCCI Engineering Contractors
Scott Duncan, Central Electric Power Cooperatives
Kim Harrison, Mail & More
Kevin and Pattie Leiby, Leiby's Automotive Service, LLC
Joia Thompson, ADTRAN
Christopher Martin, BlueBird Media
Patricia Jo Boyers, Boycom
Daniel Fairfax, Brocade Communications Systems, Inc.
Scott Apfelbacher, Dascom Systems Group
Justin Bader, EchoStar
Robert Sandhaus, Joseph D. Fail Engineering Co., Inc.
Max Huffman, Missouri Network Alliance

United Electric Cooperative

United Electric Cooperative
Maryville, MO   Savannah, MO
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

WHAT IS UNITED ELECTRIC'S FIBER INITIATIVE?

United Electric Cooperative has been awarded through the American Recover and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to build an advanced FTTH (fiber-to-the-home) network capable of delivering high-speed broadband service up to 100 Mbps. United will also add additional fiber strands to create a dedicated 1 gigabit education network, providing our rural school systems and libraries an exponential increase in broadband access. This education intranet, named the Cooperative Network for Rural Education Advancement (CnREA) will open the door to advanced education options through the use of video delivery and shared resources.

The system will be an open network model with competing internet, video and voice providers offering advanced broadband applications directly to 4,224 households and 58 businesses in rural, underserved portions of Andrew, Buchanan, Clinton, Dekalb, Gentry and Nodaway counties in Northwest Missouri. Furthermore, the United fiber network will provide the opportunity for up to 150 critical community anchor institutions, including 21 rural communities, 33 school facilities, 38 health facilities, 31 public safety entities, 5 libraries and 3 prisons to connect. The network spans 1370 miles at a cost of $21.8 million, and United Electric Cooperative will receive 70 percent grant, percent RUS loan for the project.

Through our partner, Pulse Broadband, United Electric will build a passive optical fiber-to-the-home network on existing electric distribution right-of-way, with planned drops to every home in the network coverage area. Pulse Broadband's patented, RUS-approved FTTH design is significantly less costly to build and to maintain than similar fiber networks, reducing the cost per premise passed to $4,919. United will utilize existing right-of-ways to eliminate adverse environmental impact.

Services offered over the network will include triple-play bundle options from multiple Internet, video and voice providers as well as home security, video surveillance, distance learning, tele-medicine, and other future end-user applications. Residential service levels will start at $29.99 for internet service and approximately $120 for triple-play video, voice, and data packages, while commercial rates will start at $69.99. The network will also connect critical community anchor institutions and small disadvantaged businesses offering discounted rate packages to these entities at least 25 percent lower than the proposed base commercial rate packages for a minimum of three years.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF A FIBER OPTIC NETWORK?

Capacity, choice, and speed are some of the obvious benefits fiber provides. What may not be as obvious is the potential that comes about when technology opens the door to opportunity. While Rural America has often struggled to gain access to the highest level of education, health care, retail, and other services, the ability to connect people and ideas at the speed of light changes everything.

Economic Development: High speed connectivity enhances the potential for current businesses, while providing the infrastructure to attract entrepreneurs, knowledge workers, and technology-based companies that would have not otherwise considered Northwest Missouri.

Education: All levels of the education continuum including primary, secondary, post-secondary, home-schooling, and continuing education programs stand to gain incredible opportunities in rural areas. The ability to provide remote class instruction, shared course offerings, and the ability for teachers and administrators to network with peers present just a few of the examples high speed connectivity offers.

Health Care: Telemedicine and Telehealth allow rural providers to offer a whole new range of health services. From access to specialists, retrieval of health records, improved emergency response, reducing transportation costs, to new alternatives for home health and e-visits, connecting health professionals to their patients in real time has the potential to revolutionize health care in rural America.

WHAT SPECIFIC PROGRAMS WILL BE SUPPORTED?

United Electric is utilizing Cooperative and Community partnerships to provide specific value-added connectivity programs for rural education and libraries.

Cooperative Network for Rural Education Advancement (CnREA): United has voluntarily increased fiber strands to create a dedicated 1 gigabit Ethernet connection to allow rural school districts and libraries access to a huge broadband resource. The use of the fiber strands required to facilitate this private network and all traffic originating and terminating on the private network will be provided at no charge to qualified educational institutions. Schools will only be required to pay for desired internet bandwidth costs at 25 percent below our standard commercial rate. The CnREA is crucial as pending state education budget cuts pose even greater threats to our rural schools and their ability to survive.

WHY UNITED ELECTRIC?

United Electric Cooperative is a stable organization with over 70 years of providing essential services to Northwest Missouri, and a long-term RUS borrower. There are critical challenges facing our service area, especially declining population, low median household income, and the fact 89 percent of our customers do not have access to high-speed broadband service. Fiber connectivity will allow United Electric Cooperative to meet these challenges head-on and revitalize our region. By providing the capability of 100 megabits of bandwidth to the home, and 1 gigabit to our rural schools and libraries, fiber optics will provide a one-time, long-term solution that will not require upgrading or replacement.

> " I grew up on a farm and my father still tells the story of getting electricity from the Cooperative. It changed his life. We can change lives again. Just as electricity greatly improved quality of life, health and economic development, the rural broadband initiative can greatly change lives today. "
> — *Kevin Kirby,* Executive Director, Midland Empire American Red Cross

We can change lives again. The United Electric fiber initiative represents a sound investment of federal funds from which Northwest Missouri will greatly benefit for generations to come.

Summary of Last-Mile Award Winners

Cass County

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Cass County intends to construct a Last Mile, Fiber-To-The-Home (FTTH) 1,286 mile network to enable 100 Mbps broadband service, SmartGrid/Green Grid energy management services, video, VoIP telephony, distance learning, tele-medicine, and other advanced broadband applications to 18 communities, 11,592 households, 701 businesses, and 118 critical community anchor institutions within 625 square miles of "unserved" and "underserved" areas of rural Cass County. The estimated project cost is $26 MM. This will be paid from a 70 percent grant and a 30 percent loan from RUS' Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP). Sponsored by Cass County Commissioners, Gary Mallory, Bill Cook, Brian Baker and overseen by Universal Asset Management of Harrisonville, our design partner is Pulse Broadband. Our construction partner is Atlantic Engineering Group. This is the same fiber architecture team that successfully secured Ralls County Electric Cooperative's round one BIP award. Cass County's twelve points of sustainable impact are expected to enable Cass County's plan to realize higher jobs results.
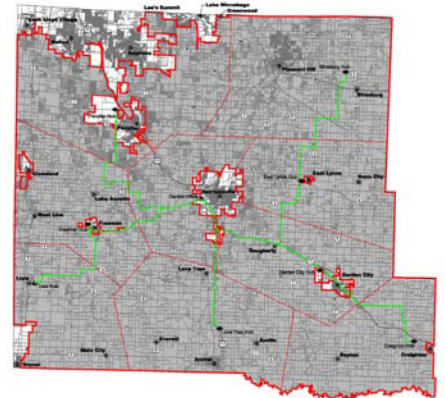
- 138 direct job years will be impacted in areas such as fiber installation, technicians, construction workers, project managers and network operators. Significantly more positions will be created through attraction of new business with broadband acting as a platform to create innovative new products and services.

- 70 percent Grant award of $18.2 million plus a 30 percent RUS loan of $7.8 million.

- The proposed rural service area consisting of 624 sq. mi. represents 90 percent of Cass County.

- Over 80 percent of Cass homes own computers although over 90 percent of rural Cass homes lack access to high-speed broadband. Our project will rectify this.

- 118 community anchors and critical community facilities, 11,592 households, 701 businesses and 18 communities will be served.

- Open Network to maximize competing providers on this network. Our partner, Pulse Broadband, has developed an "open access network" for multiple providers to offer competing broadband, video, and VoIP products on their trademarked gateway, Broadband Boulevard. The fiber-to-the-home solution used by Pulse has been successfully deployed for the last three years. Design and construction has already been evaluated and approved by the RUS, and uses RUS-approved components

- Rights-of-way are supported with letters of intent. There are no political or financial hold-ups. Cass County will start the project immediately and will complete it within 36 months. The fiber will follow the existing pole grid, with minimal environmental disruption.

- 35 Providers lacking adequate market share to enable a private enterprise investment and build-out in rural Cass.

118 Community Anchor Institutions	138 Job-Years Impacted	11,592 Households Connected	701 Businesses Connected	90% Of the Proposed Service Area is Underserved	1,286 Total Fiber Miles	$18.2 Million Federal Grant Award

- Enhanced Enterprise Zones (EEZs) will be enabled to attract new businesses requiring high-speed broadband access
- Telecommuting to Centerpoint Intermodal Center and Honeywell will be facilitated for Cass' rural workforce
- We will serve chronically underserved areas of rural Cass County.
- Pulse Broadband's less costly FTTH design/build, demonstrates cost effectiveness at $2,253 per premises passed, using City of Harrisonville, KCP&L and Osage Valley Electric Coop's pole-grids and right-of-way, and our local government, tax exempt status makes this project work. Subscriber projections have been conservative to assure financial sustainability.

ABOUT THE CASS COUNTY BROADBAND TEAM

Sponsored by Cass County's Commissioners, as a local government entity, our mission is to serve our citizens and build a brighter tomorrow for future generations. We cannot ignore the disadvantage that our citizens will experience without this lifeline that enables a higher quality of life in a world where technology is accelerating at the speed of Google. Our rural market is currently served by 35 providers of varied content and inadequate delivery methods, and none has adequate market share to justify the investment necessary to fund a build-out of this critical public infrastructure that is today's equivalent of electricity. Broadband is the missing keystone of critical public infrastructure that neither private enterprise nor Cass County government can fund alone. Our application demonstrates the effectiveness of local and federal government working together with private enterprise to improve the lives of our citizens. Our application provides RUS with sustainable leverage impacts.

- Through our design partner, Pulse Broadband, Cass County will build a passive optical fiber-to-the-home network on an open and non-discriminatory basis along existing electric distribution rights-of-way, with planned drops to every home to enable Smart Grid/ Green Grid technologies. Pulse Broadband's patented, RUS-approved FTTH design is significantly less costly to build and to maintain than similar fiber networks, reducing the cost per premise passed to $2,253.00. The Pulse Broadband team has decades of senior level management experience with major cable TV providers such as Time Warner, Comcast, Charter Communications, and Suddenlink. Pulse's experience included daily operations for up to 2,000,000 customers driving $1 Billion in annual revenue resulting from the delivery of video, data, and telephone service in addition to Video on Demand and advertising. Additionally the Pulse engineering team managed all facets of network design for upgrades, rebuilds, and new builds totaling over $1 Billion annually for 12,000,000 customers. Pulse Broadband's senior engineering team created the first deployment of fiber optic technology in the cable TV industry at Time Warner Cable. This long history of working with fiber deployments in the cable TV industry has led to the development of the FTTH architecture that is included in this application with Cass County. Pulse Broadband has managed the design, engineering and walk-out for the construction of over 50,000 miles of plant. All key construction, equipment and head-end contractors and vendors are lined up to start the project.
- Atlantic Engineering Group (AEG) is the proposed construction partner who will build the fiber network using primarily local contractors to
- Maximize local jobs, according to strict Davis Bacon wage requirements. AEG is the premier fiber construction company in the country and has built over 65 fiber projects since 1995, and 19 municipal FTTH builds including Lafayette, LA, Clarksville, TN and Provo, Utah.
- Pulse and AEG have direct prior experience with RUS projects. We know what to expect, how to

access and account for the money, and how to fully comply with government audit and oversight regulations.

- Universal Asset Management (UAM) is an engineering firm with a professional staff that will provide project management and liaison between the Cass County government and the network designers, installers and operators.

- Network interconnection rates will make it financially attractive for various providers to connect to customers. Each provider will enter the network through a central Service Interface Point (SIP) controlled by the network. Connectivity between the customer's home and the public Internet will travel from the home or business to the SIP over the fiber network. Connectivity from the SIP to the public Internet will be delivered utilizing a high capacity optical circuit from the closest point of presence (POP) to the Internet and return to the coop's network connection at the SIP. POP connectivity will be negotiated with major regional and national fiber carriers like Cogent or Level 3. This ensures that the network is not a private, closed network.

CASS COUNTY PROJECT SUPPORTERS

Senator Claire McCaskill
U.S. Congressman Ike Skelton
Missouri Governor Jay Nixon
Missouri State Senator David Pearce, District 31
Missouri House of Representatives, Scott Largent, District 120
Missouri House of Representatives, Mike McGhee, District 122
Missouri House of Representatives, Chris Molendorp, District 123
Missouri House of Representatives, Luke Scavuzzo, District 124
Cass County League of Cities
Mid-America Regional Council (MARC)
Cass County Commissioners
City of Harrisonville
KCP&L
Osage Valley Electric Cooperative Association
Cass County Corporation for Economic Development
Cass Regional Medical Center
Cass County Public Library
University of Missouri Extension
Kansas City Area Development Council
Cass County Sheriff's Office
Harrisonville Chamber of Commerce
Cass County Schools
Cass County Citizens
Harrisonville Chamber of Commerce
Cass County Schools
Cass County Citizens
Cass County Agricultural Businesses and Farmers

Summary of Last-Mile Award Winners

Finally Broadband, LLC

FINALLY BROADBAND, LLC™
DEDICATED TO THE DELIVERY OF BROADBAND INTERNET TO RURAL CUSTOMERS.™

Our "Southwest Missouri Rural Broadband Initiative" Last Mile Project was designed to provide high quality value priced broadband Internet to rural families and businesses and high quality discounted broadband Internet to Critical Community Facilities.

The project will promote rural economic development and stimulate job creation through the deployment of affordable broadband Internet to rural customers left behind by profit driven providers. We will bring broadband Internet to an area that is vastly under-served and in the majority of Douglas, Texas and Wright Counties, we believe, un-served. We will offer several service tiers that allow our customers to make the decision between what speed they need and what price they are willing to pay. Our economy service tier offers a low cost residential and business option that should be affordable on the tightest budget.

FINALLY BROADBAND, LLC
SOUTHWEST MISSOURI RURAL BROADBAND INITIATIVE
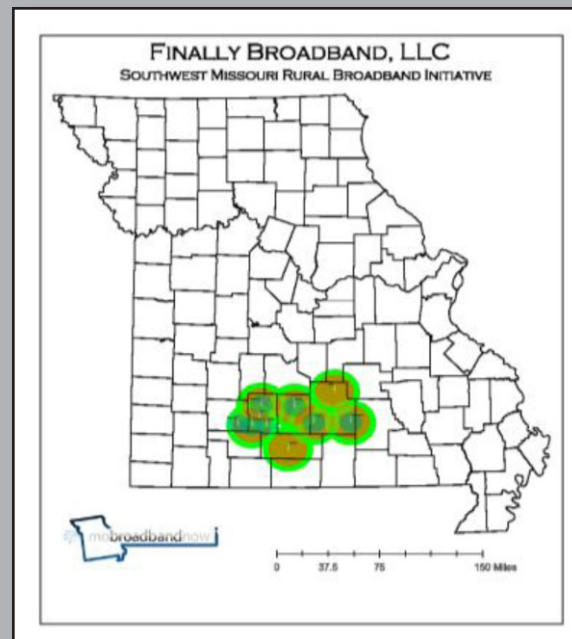
The "SWMRBI Phase I- III" Service Area is 100 percent rural.
It will cover fifteen counties in South Central Missouri. Our service area will cover Texas, Webster and Wright Counties and the majority of Douglas County. In addition, it will cover portions of Christian, Dallas, Dent, Greene, Howell, Laclede, Ozark, Phelps, Pulaski, Shannon and Taney Counties. Of these counties Ozark, Shannon, Texas and Wright are Persistent Poverty Counties.

Finally Broadband is an innovative start up organization born out of necessity, driven by need and dedicated to the provision of wireless broadband Internet to rural Missouri families, businesses and Critical Community Facilities.

- Our service area has a population of 118,569. Of this population, 76 percent are employed, 25 percent are enrolled in school, 24 percent have high school diplomas, and 12 percent have college degrees.

- The median family income, in the main counties (counties with less than two tract codes excluded), is $29,900.00 with 11.9 percent of those families below the poverty level.

- Our project covers 4,563 square miles of area in a vastly under-served area.

- 404 Community Anchor Points and Critical Community Facilities will have access to discounted Last Mile service.

- 45,782 households, 7,484 businesses and 24 communities in 15 counties will have access to value priced Last Mile service.

| **4,563**	**45,782**	**7,484**	**404**	**37**	**7**
Square Miles of Service Area	Households Passed	Businesses Passed	Community Anchor Institutions Passed	Census Designated Places	Full Time Jobs Created

- 7 full time jobs will be created during the project funding period. In addition, more jobs will be created as Finally Broadband grows to its market share.

- The overall cost of the project will be $1,118,000.00. Of this amount $998,000.00 is the BIP Grant/Loan Request (50 percent grant and 50 percent loan) and $120,000.00 will be in-kind contributions from the management team. An additional $1,474,901.00 will be invested during the five year project period from project generated revenue bringing the total capital investment to $2,592,901.00. In addition Finally Broadband will contribute $25,000.00 in-kind and $12,000.00 cash for operating expense. We are bringing a total of $157,000.00 to the table for this project.

- Our timeline calculations indicate project completion (per NOFA definition) in less than 24 months.
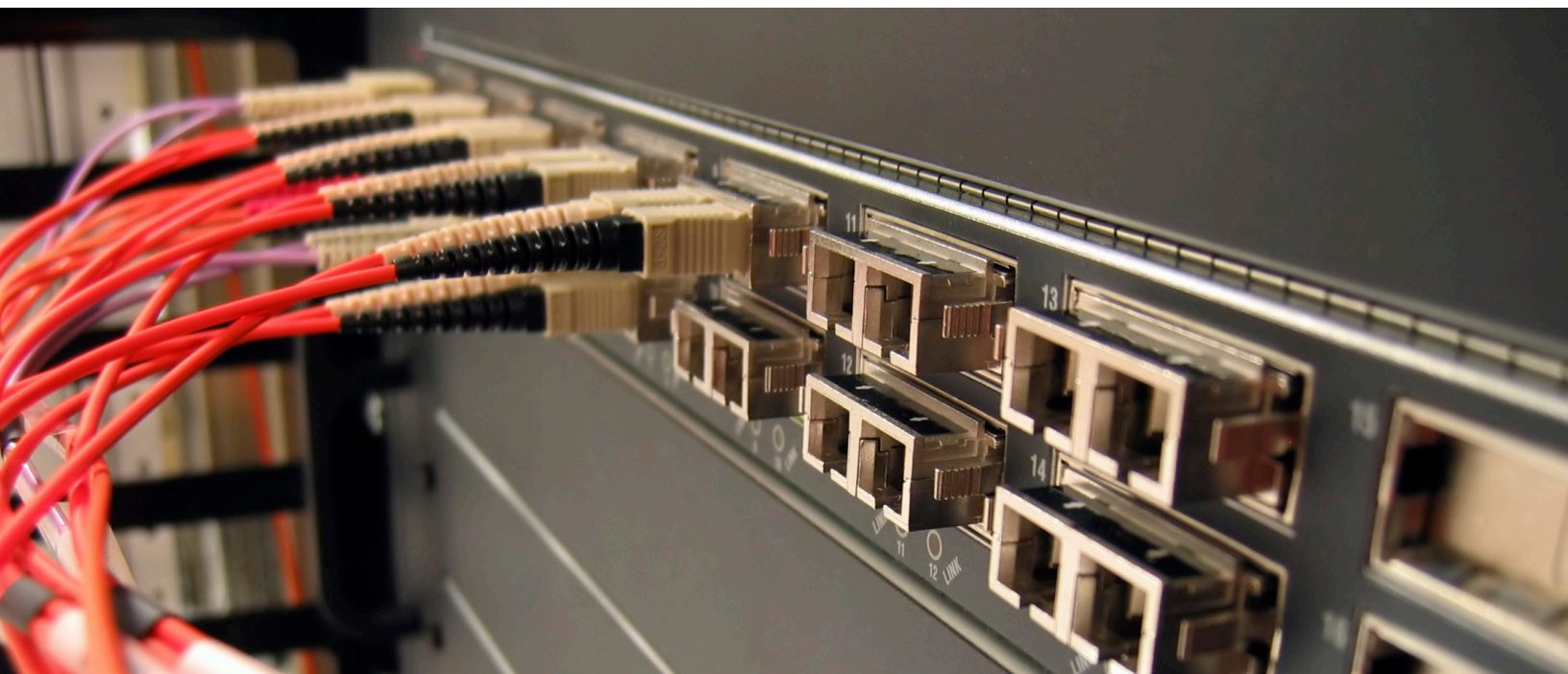
PROJECT SUPPORTERS

Representative Ike Skelton
Missouri Governor Jay Nixon
State of Missouri Office of Homeland Security
Missouri Primary Care Association
Ridgetop Networks

Summary of Last-Mile Award Winners

Grand River Mutual Telephone Corporation

OVERVIEW OF MISSOURI PROJECTS

Grand River Mutual Telephone Corporation successfully received $33.7 million for four awards from the United State Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service to improve broadband service in northern Missouri. The struggling economy has been particularly hard on many of the small towns along the Iowa-Missouri border. As the economy begins to pick up again, the future of these towns will depend on their ability to attract new businesses and generate economic growth. Grand River Mutual Telephone Corporation (Grand River Mutual) will expand its fiber optic network to areas that currently lack sufficient access to broadband service.

The projects will provide access to Internet speeds comparable to what is available to customers in more populated areas. The four awards will allow fiber-to-the home to reach an additional 4,371 premises. In addition, the awards will provide an opportunity to reach 44 community anchor institutions. Approximately 71 jobs will be created as a result of the awards. The four awards are:

- $12.4 million awarded for Sullivan and Linn counties. The network will provide service to 1,185 homes and 773 businesses. In addition, 22 critical community facilities and public safety entities will be reached.

- $11.4 million awarded for Lathrop in Clinton County. The network will provide service to 1,221 homes and 47 businesses. In addition, 12 critical community facilities and public safety entities will be reached.

- $9 million awarded for Worth, Gentry, and Harrison counties. The network will provide service to 641 homes and 371 businesses. In addition, eight critical community facilities and public safety entities will be reached.

- $0.9 million for Powersville in Putnam County as part of a $20.3 million project that included four Iowa communities as well. The network will provide service to 91 premises. In addition, 2 community anchor institutions will be reached.

The broadband service that Grand River Mutual will be able to provide will help attract new businesses, promote economic development, create educational opportunities, and improve residents' access to quality health care. Increased bandwidth will make it easier to attract and retain businesses by offering the technological capacity to reach customers or connect with other company sites outside the area. The projects will also provide increased bandwidth to school districts, which will allow students and faculty to take advantage of Internet resources that are currently unavailable to them. The enhanced services provided by Grand River Mutual will allow teachers to download or stream educational videos from the Internet in a timely fashion. The network

will also allow for new training opportunities for teachers and research opportunities for students. These benefits will also extend beyond the school day; with both students and teachers able to access the Internet at higher speeds from home, they will have the ability to conduct research projects and plan more technologically-sophisticated lessons and assignments. Local medical and public safety facilities will also benefit from the increased capacity of Grand River Mutual's network. Access to high speed Internet service will allow local medical providers to view electronic medical records, radiology results, and other digital images from larger medical facilities.

Active Ethernet or GPON are planned as the access delivery technology and are currently deployed in other locations within Grand River Mutual's ILEC service area. Grand River Mutual intends to provide high-bandwidth Internet connectivity to the outside world. Customers will have a UPS and an ONT installed at their individual location to convert the fiber based access network to the copper based systems used within their homes. Grand River Mutual has an existing OC-192 SONET network that had been deployed within their network. In addition to the SONET network, Grand River Mutual will deploy a new Ethernet transport system within the PFSA.

ABOUT GRAND RIVER MUTUAL TELEPHONE CORPORATION

Grand River Mutual Telephone Corporation was formed January 31, 1951. The corporation was organized to furnish telephone service on a non-profit basis to rural and urban subscribers residing in a multi-county section of northwestern Missouri and south central Iowa. Operations began August 1, 1953, with 20 exchanges (12 in Missouri and 8 in Iowa) serving approximately 6,100 telephones. Nine additional exchanges were added by January 1, 1955. The first dial service was established August 15, 1955. By 1979, the corporation had grown to 44 exchanges, 32 located in northern Missouri and 12 in southern Iowa.

Grand River has been an active Internet provider in both Missouri and Iowa since 1996. Grand River Mutual was one of the first rural companies in the nation to offer high speed DSL service in 1999. The corporation also offers 700 MHZ licensed wireless Internet service in select areas.

Grand River Mutual has worked with various schools in providing interactive distance learning in its serving area. A consortium of four schools; Grundy County R5, Newtown R3, North Mercer R3, and Princeton R5, was formed, in 1996 to provide distance learning, via fiber optic facilities, between their respective schools. The involved schools have named their consortium the "Grand River Network". In 1998, the "Northwest Distance Learning Consortium" was formed, expanding and improving distance-learning offerings to an additional eight schools.

Grand River Mutual has actively encouraged the schools to work together to take advantage of its fiber facilities and video switching equipment to expand and improve distance-learning offerings.

Summary of Last-Mile Award Winners

Northeast Missouri Rural Telephone Company

OVERVIEW OF PROJECTS

Northeast Missouri Rural Telephone Co. (NEMR) successfully received **$17.5 million** for two awards from the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service (RUS) to improve broadband service in northern Missouri. The approval of the broadband projects means that NEMR will be building a "communications network for the future" in Unionville and Green City over the next three years. The NEMR telephone cooperative was formed in 1952 and has always strived to provide the communications services our customers want at reasonable rates. High speed broadband has become an essential service.

The approved broadband projects will create construction jobs now to build high speed Internet networks and bring broadband to rural America so that Americans can compete in a global 21st Century economy. The projects will provide greatly improved broadband services and create the potential for increases in business growth, public safety services, and quality of life for residents in the service areas. Both projects will be a big economic boost for the community. The projects are:

> **$10.3 million** awarded for Unionville in Putnam County including **$5,140,458** in grant funding and the same amount in loans approved by the RUS. The project involves burying a fiber optic cable to every residence and business in the Unionville, Missouri (660-947) telephone exchange. State of the art electronics with a 1 Gig capacity will be installed at each premise and in the Unionville central office to connect the fibers. The Unionville exchange is a 170 square mile area in Putnam County. A population of approximately 3,200 residents and 1,600 premises are located within the exchange. Construction on the project has begun and conversion of Unionville customers to the new fiber will begin in 2011. The Unionville project will be completed in 2013.

> **$7.2 million** awarded for Green City in Sullivan County including **$3,595,810** in grant funding and the same amount in loans approved by the RUS. Like Unionville electronic equipment with a 1 Gig capacity will be installed at every residence, business and community organization in the Green City, Missouri (660-874) telephone exchange. This will create the potential for increased business growth, public service, public safety and quality of life for the residents of Green City. This project will greatly expand broadband capabilities and enhance business growth, public safety services and the quality of life for residents in the Green City area. The project will be completed in 2013.

ABOUT NORTHEAST MISSOURI RURAL TELEPHONE CO.

Northeast Missouri Rural Telephone Company (NEMR) is a cooperative that is entirely owned by the customers it has served. NEMR has been providing high quality telephone service since 1952, dialup Internet service since the mid-1990's and broadband Internet since 2001. NEMR introduced dialup Internet service to its rural customers in 1995. NEMR's first Internet connections used 14.4K

modems, then 28.8, 33.6 and 56K. It was apparent in the very early stages of providing Internet that there would be a steady demand for increased bandwidth. In the fall of 1996 NEMR requested and was approved for an RUS/RTB loan to completely upgrade its telephone system by connecting all 14 of its central offices in a fiber ring and extending fiber deep into the rural areas so every premise would be within 18,000 feet of fiber. This massive project and the goal of offering 768K broadband Internet to all was completed in 2006.
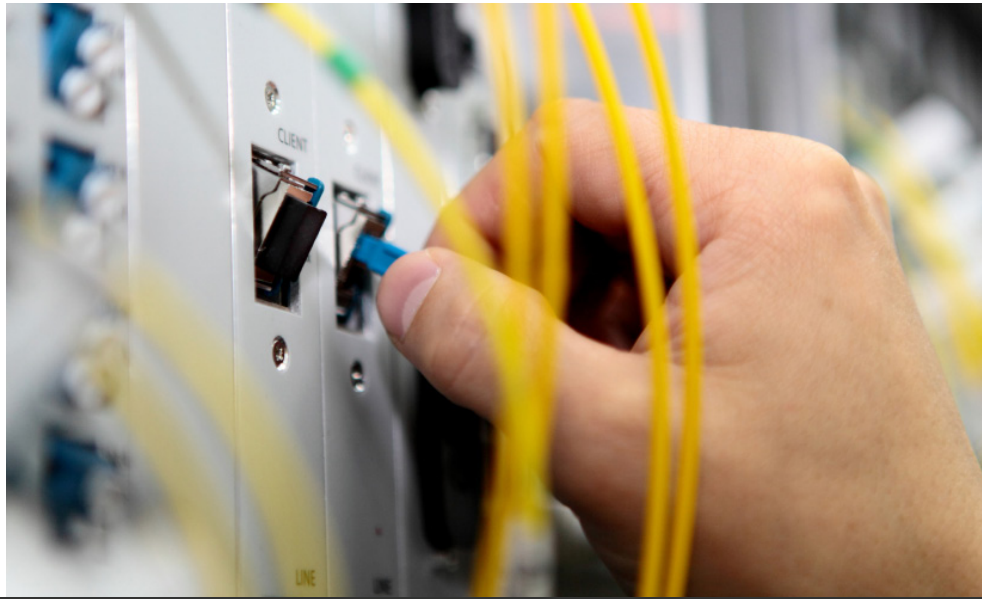
Some in the telecommunications industry are recommending a national goal of having 90 percent of American premises connected to 100Mbps broadband service by 2020. That's more than 100 times the current speed of 768K connections.
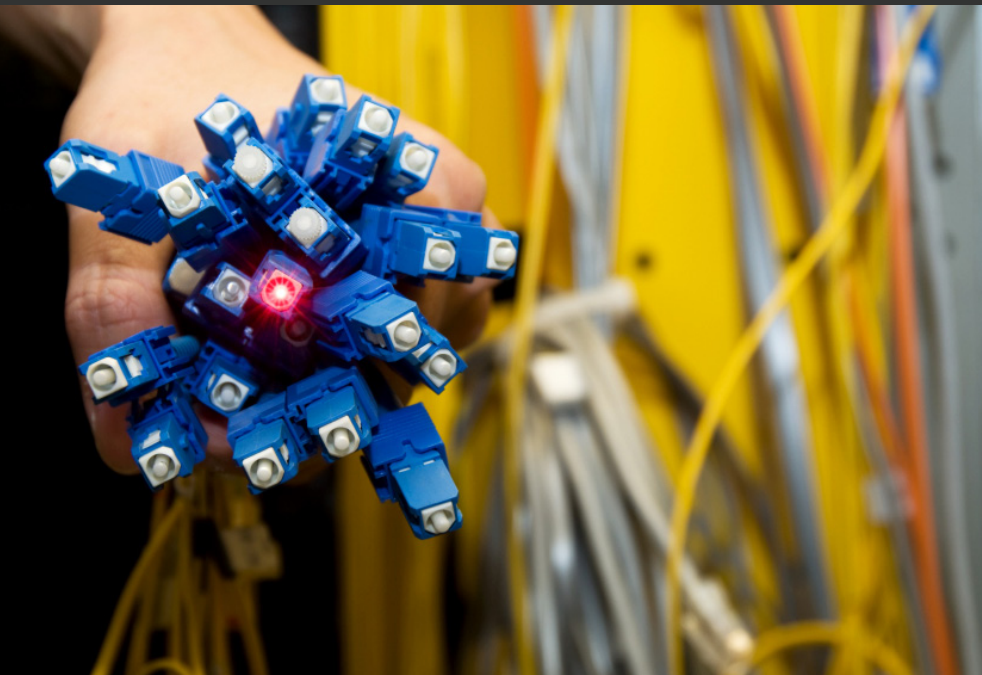
With an accelerating demand for more Internet speed and all the new devices customers are attaching to the network, it is apparent that 18,000 ft. copper loops and 768K Internet will not satisfy broadband needs for the future. Some in the telecommunications industry are recommending a national goal of having 90 percent of American premises connected to 100Mbps broadband service by 2020. That's more than 100 times the current speed of 768K connections. NEMR will finish its $5 million Memphis, Missouri fiber-to-the-home project in the first quarter of 2011. The equipment NEMR has already installed in Memphis and will install in the Unionville and Green City exchanges will be fully capable of exceeding this 100Mbps goal.

Also in the 1990's NEMR worked with local high schools to help form the Education Plus Network and NEMO net. EPN leveraged NEMR's fiber network to become Missouri's first ITV public school network to offer high school classes over fiber optics. EPN serves Putnam County R-I, Milan C-II, Green City R-I and Adair County R-I (Novinger). NEMO Net, ITV public school network, includes Scotland County R-I, Clark County R-I, Schuyler County R-I, Marion County R-II and North Shelby. NEMO Net also uses fiber owned by Mark Twain Rural Telephone Company.

Summary of Last-Mile Award Winners

Orchard Farm Telephone Company

Orchard Farm Telephone Company (Orchard Farm Tel), a subsidiary of TDS Telecommunications Corp. (TDS Telecom), will build a network that will bring high speed broadband service to unserved premises within Orchard Farm Tel's rural franchise service territory. From a descriptive perspective, Orchard Farm Tel is the state certified incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC) located in Missouri. The project is designed to serve 1 proposed funded service area (PFSA) located within its franchised service territory, which are one hundred percent rural and include 3 communities. Within this PFSA, there are 142 premises that currently have no access to any broadband service, including Orchard Farm Tel's DSL service.

The total capital budget for building the proposed project is **$806,391**, of which 25 percent **($201,598)** would be provided from private investment (TDS Telecom equity funded in lieu of a loan), and the remaining 75 percent **($604,793)** funded by a grant from the RUS Broadband Initiatives Program. The construction of the network will begin immediately upon execution of the RUS grant agreements and be completed within the required timeframe.

As envisioned, this project will stimulate job growth and retention; and will provide broadband service to customers in rural areas who currently do not have such access, thereby increasing these customers' access to medical and public safety agencies as well as to educational opportunities. More specifically, Orchard Farm Tel's project will rely on TDS Telecom's financial, managerial and technical expertise to meet the following goals:

- Provide DSL broadband capability to unserved premises in rural areas at prices comparable to those offered in the areas where Orchard Farm Tel currently offers broadband service.

- Deliver dynamic broadband high speed capabilities of 20 Mbps (upstream and downstream combined), all of which mirror product offerings in the more populated portions of Orchard Farm Tel's territory.

- Generate sufficient revenues to operate and maintain this broadband network on a self-sustaining basis.

- Directly create or retain 16 jobs to build the network while indirectly stimulating jobs and economic development.

- Allow other providers access to this network so they can also offer these same premises competing broadband service.

As the 8th largest wireline telephone company in the United States, TDS Telecom has a long history of building and maintaining robust voice and data networks in over one-hundred rural ILEC, high-cost areas.

Orchard Farm Tel is operated by TDS Telecom's senior management team and is backed by TDS Telecom's managerial, technical, and financial strength (TDS Telecom's Vice President, Network Services is the project manager). As the 8th largest wireline telephone company in the United States, TDS Telecom has a long history of building and maintaining robust voice and data networks in over one-hundred rural ILEC, high-cost areas. Moreover, TDS Telecom has deployed DSL broadband networks capable of serving approximately 93 percent of its existing customers within these high cost areas, and has successfully maintained these broadband networks.

As engineered, the network will specifically:

- Deploy "Ethernet over copper" technology to its fullest potential.

- Provide VDSL2 access devices that are packaged in a "fiber to the node" configuration.

- Upgrade access in the central office to the extent necessary to support the extension of the broadband networks to these remote areas.

- Utilize PON (fiber to the home) where economically feasible and allow for future PON upgrades without having to rebuild the transport routes.

- Target speed to unserved customers at 20Mbps (upstream and downstream combined) or more DSL service.

Orchard Farm Tel today offers DSL service in the more densely-populated portions of its service territory at a competitive price (e.g., 3Mbps at $49.95 per month), along with various other packages and services. Assuming similar take rates as in these more populated areas, Orchard Farm Tel would offer its DSL service to the additional premises that are the subject of this application at this same price.

Summary of Last-Mile Award Winners

Utopian Wireless

Utopian Wireless Corporation is a fourth generation (4G) WiMAX services provider that holds licensed 2.5GHz spectrum rights to deploy services in over 40 geographic service areas in the United States, including spectrum covering Benton, MO. From its inception in 2006, Utopian's primary focus has been to deploy wireless broadband services in rural and tertiary areas that have been left behind by the major telecommunications providers.

Utopian's Benton WiMAX Project will make available advanced 4G wireless broadband service to underserved communities in and around Benton, MO. Utopian's goal is to make available next generation, affordable wireless broadband services to consumers and businesses in Benton. The project will spur economic activity in the area, make available advanced new technology and services to critical community facilities and institutions, and promote equal opportunity for residents in obtaining information and education through broadband access.

Summary of Last-Mile Award Winners

Windstream Corporation

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Windstream Corporation is committed to broadband. Currently, Windstream makes available broadband service to approximately 89 percent of the homes and businesses in its service area. However, in many of the rural areas Windstream serves, the cost of broadband deployment, particularly last mile facilities, is prohibitive. As a result, customers located in sparsely populated areas of Windstream's service territory lack access to broadband connectivity today. These customers currently lack the economic and educational opportunities, social interaction, political empowerment, and health care benefits that broadband affords.

The $13.8 million project in Missouri will help to correct this situation. Funding for the project includes $10.3 million awarded by the USDA RUS and $3.4 million match from Windstream. Through this project, Windstream will expand broadband service to unserved customers living and working in rural areas of Missouri in the following communities: Arlington, Black River, Buffalo, Capps Creek, Carpenter, Cass, Cole, Corsicana, Cowan, Current River, Dalton, Doniphan, Dry Creek, East Looney, Exeter, Franklin, Freistatt, Glaze, Harris, Haw Creek, Hoberg, Jackson, Jeff, Jefferson, Kings Prairie, Liberty, Lost Creek, Mcdowell, Mckinley, Mill Creek, Miller, Mooney, Myrtle, North Benton, Northeast Marion, Northwest Marion, Ozark, Pioneer, Pleasant Ridge, Poynor, Purdy, Richland, Richwood, Richwoods, Sheridan, Shirley, Southeast Marion, Southwest Marion, Spring Creek, Spring River, St. Francois, Tavern, Thomas, Union, Varner, Washington, West Doniphan, West Looney, Wheaton, Williams, and Wishart.

The project will allow Windstream to extend the reach of its broadband network to pass 4,350 households and 201 businesses and thereby provide broadband to "last mile" wireline telephone subscribers who could not be reached with Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) service in a cost effective manner. The project also will allow Windstream to provide broadband service to 39 of critical community facilities and public safety entities in the proposed funded service area, to which Windstream intends to offer discounted rate packages that are at least 25 percent lower than its standard rate packages for at least three years.

Windstream expects that this project will have a meaningful impact on the communities in the proposed funded service area. As a result of its commitment to making affordable broadband available in rural areas, Windstream has been able to achieve significant levels of broadband penetration in the markets it currently serves. As of March 2009, approximately 52 percent of Windstream's primary residential lines subscribed to its broadband services and Windstream expects to have similar success with broadband adoption in the proposed funded service area and estimates that 1,882 subscribers will purchase broadband services from Windstream. This project also means real jobs in areas that desperately need them. Approximately 229 jobs will be created.

Windstream intends to make available a wide variety of broadband services to customers in the proposed funded service area at affordable rates. The multiple tiers of broadband service from Windstream will enable customers to choose the plan that fits their lifestyle and budget. Specifically, Windstream intends to offer broadband service at the following speeds: 1.5M (1,536 Kbps download/384 Kbps upload); Broadband 3.0M (3,072 Kbps download/768 Kbps upload); Broadband 6.0M (6,144 Kbps download/768 Kbps upload); and Broadband 12.0M (12,288 Kbps download/768 Kbps upload). The prices for these broadband services in the proposed funded service area will be the same prices that Windstream charges for broadband service throughout its existing service area. The use of this company-wide standard pricing model will allow residences and businesses in the proposed funded service area to enjoy the same broadband prices that customers pay in urban and more competitive markets. In short, customers in the proposed funded service area will effectively get the benefit of competition even though the areas in which they live and work currently do not have one, let alone multiple broadband providers.

Windstream will extend broadband service using the same architecture, equipment vendors, technologies, processes, and procedures that Windstream uses to provide broadband service to over 1 million current customers. Thus, this project is technically feasible and "shovel ready." Windstream proposes to deploy industry standard DSLAMs (Digital Subscriber Line Access Multiplexers) using industry standard ADSL2+ (Asynchronous Digital Subscriber Line) protocols to provide a minimum of 6 Mbps downstream and 786 Kbps upstream data services. The DSLAM will be strategically deployed to reach the greatest number of unserved customers over existing wireline copper plant. From the DSLAM back to the central office, Windstream will use fiber to transport the customer data to the edge data network which is interconnected to the Windstream industry-leading core MPLS network.

> **Today, Windstream is a premier provider of wireline telecommunications services in the nation with 3 million customers and over 1 million broadband customers.**

ABOUT WINDSTREAM

Windstream Corporation (Windstream) (NASDAQ: WIN) is an S&P 500 company with approximately $3.7 billion in annual revenues. Windstream Corp. provides phone, high-speed Internet and high-definition digital TV services to rural customers in 21 states. The company has approximately 3 million access lines, many of which are located in rural areas.

Windstream has been in the business of providing high quality telecommunications services since 1945, when it started as a one exchange telephone company in rural Arkansas. Today, Windstream is a premier provider of wireline telecommunications services in the nation with 3 million customers and over 1 million broadband customers. Windstream's management team has significant knowledge and experience in building and managing broadband networks and has invested approximately $600 million in capital expenditures for broadband deployment since 2006. Financial analysts have generally regarded the Windstream management team as one of the strongest in the rural local exchange industry for its disciplined focus and financial expertise. Five of the company's nine executive officers are certified public accountants. Additionally, Windstream ranked 4th in the 2009 BusinessWeek 50 ranking of the best performing U.S. companies, further testament to management's leadership skills, sound experience and deep expertise. In short, Windstream is a well-established broadband provider with a proven track record of deploying broadband service in rural America.

VII. OTHER MISSOURI AWARD WINNERS

VII. Other Missouri Award Winners

**MDHE** — Missouri Department of Higher Education

Missouri Department of Higher Education

The Missouri Department of Higher Education (MDHE) is collaborating with seven community colleges across the state to establish or expand a total of 23 public computer centers in strategically-targeted areas. These facilities will function as one-stop technology centers for launching new opportunities and new careers, with a specific focus on the unemployed and underemployed citizens in the targeted regions. Public computer centers will be strategically located–on campus, in a college education center, at a community location within the college's service area, or in a mobile public computer center–in order to provide an efficient means of bringing broadband access to the vulnerable populations in Missouri communities.

Public computer centers at Missouri community colleges will provide:

- Public access to broadband technology at new or expanded computer centers staffed by knowledgeable education assistants who are sensitive to the needs of the vulnerable populations to be served
- Courses in Basic Digital Literacy, including an introduction to technology careers, free of charge to the public
- Outreach to the vulnerable populations in each college's service area
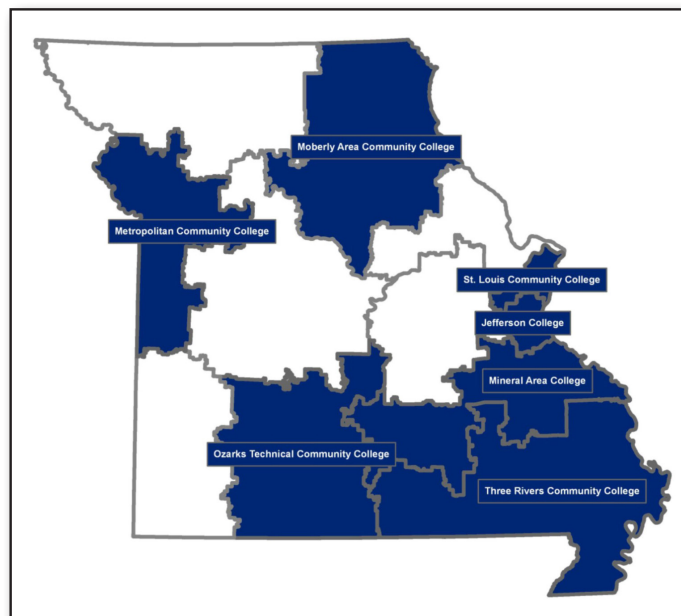
These public computer centers will enable Missouri community colleges to prepare users to access broadband services for a variety of purposes including telemedicine (personal health records), small business development, education, social networking, job searches, research, and personal enrichment.

The MDHE was rewarded $4,978,977 in federal funds to develop or enhance 23 public computer centers. MDHE and its partner colleges will provide $1,629,359 in matching funds of the total project cost of $6,608,336.

WHY BROADBAND?

The MDHE's approach to addressing the state's economic problems is to promote economic recovery by assisting those affected most by the current economic downturn. Access to broadband services will provide individuals with the opportunity to gain information, education, and new skills. The department will use funds provided by the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program grant to invest in technology infrastructure that will provide long-term economic benefits to the state and its citizens.

23
Public Computer Centers Across the State

828
Broadband Workstations

Over **15,000**
New Users Each Month

MDHE and **7**
Partner Community Colleges

ABOUT MDHE

As the state's higher education agency, the MDHE is coordinating the effort to create public computer centers at community college locations across the state of Missouri. The MDHE has responsibility for coordination and oversight of all postsecondary education in the state. The agency is headed by the Coordinating Board for Higher Education, a bi-partisan lay board appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate. The department has a direct relationship with all postsecondary institutions in the state, functioning as a central point of contact across institutional sectors.

PROJECT PARTNERS

Missouri Department of Higher Education
Jefferson College
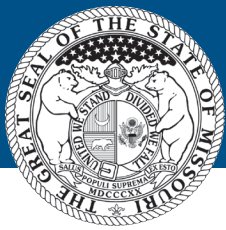Moberly Area Community College
Metropolitan Community College
Mineral Area College
Ozarks Technical Community College
St. Louis Community College
Three Rivers Community College

Other Missouri Award Winners

Missouri Office of Administration
Data, Mapping and Planning Award

The Missouri Office of Administration received $6.6 million in two grants for mapping and planning activities from the National Telecommunications Information Administration's State Broadband Data and Development (SBDD) Program. Missouri received $1,973,382 in Round 1 funding and $4,600,000 in Round 2 funding. This includes $3.9 million for mapping broadband access throughout the state and $2.7 million for planning activities designed to identify community needs. The state will provide an additional $1.6 million in match for these activities bringing total funding to $8.2 million.
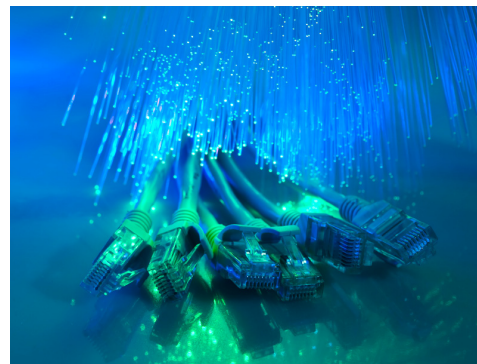
MAPPING

The mapping grant given to Missouri will cover five years of mapping and data collection activity. Accurate data is critical for broadband planning and informing citizens and businesses of the availability of broadband in their area. Most states had little public information regarding broadband availability before American Recovery and

> " Missouri competed aggressively for broadband funding and our hard work has paid off tremendously. "
>
> – *Kelvin Simmons, Commissioner*
> Office of Administration

Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding became available. The federal SBDD program provides assistance to the states in gathering data on the availability, speed, and location of broadband services. Data must be submitted to the NTIA twice each year. In addition, information is gathered on the broadband services used by community institutions, such as schools, libraries, and hospitals. The data will be used by the NTIA to create and update a public searchable, interactive national broadband map due for completion by February 17, 2011.

The state's mapping activities are conducted by the University of Missouri's Department of Geography under contract with the Office of Administration. The data is collected from broadband providers throughout the state in accordance with disclosure agreements reached with those providers. In addition to data collection, the project includes validation of the data. The project also includes development of an address file to support the needs of local governments and public safety entities. A web-based mapping portal to the broadband information will also be created to provide all citizens access to this information.

The State has submitted two rounds of information to the federal government. The data now contains information from 75 providers throughout the state. The map displayed herein shows substantial coverage in many areas of the state but numerous holes in availability in many counties. The governor's goal is to increase broadband accessibility from its current level of 79.7 percent to 95 percent within five years.

The Governor created the **MoBroadbandNow** initiative to develop a public-private partnership of multiple cooperative partners to build broadband access. Missouri has been very successful in its efforts with $261 million awarded for broadband from the NTIA and United States Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service. The awards received by Missouri companies will provide a leap forward for broadband access all over the state. These projects must be substantially complete within two years, which means that Missourians should begin to reap the benefits of improvements in the near future. As these broadband projects are constructed the broadband service availability map will show improvement.

State of Missouri Broadband Service
As of submission of October 1, 2010

Data represents 75 providers. Data does not include the three (3) satellite broadband providers. Service depicted by 2009 Census Blocks

- **Unserved – No Broadband Providers beyond Satellite**
- **Underserved – 1 Broadband Provider beyond Satellite**
- **Served – More than 1 Broadband Provider beyond Satellite**

PLANNING

The SBDD Program also provides funding to facilitate the integration of broadband and information technology into state and local economies. Broadband connectivity is going to be a crucial element for Missouri citizens in the 21st century to participate in education, the economy, and receive services.

NTIA funding must be used to support the efficient and creative use of broadband technology to better compete in the digital economy. Each state created its own plan based on local needs. States were encouraged to include programs to assist small businesses and community institutions in using technology more effectively, investigate barriers to broadband adoption, develop innovative applications to increase access to government services and information, and create state and local task forces to expand broadband access and adoption. There are four components of Missouri's planning activities:

- **State Broadband Capacity Building** – The SBDD grant enables the State of Missouri to create for the first time an ongoing funded State Broadband Office. After passage of the ARRA the State put the funding programs therein. Those resources were directed ically to coordinate the efforts to obtain broadband expansion ding from the NTIA and RUS. After the successful completion the federal funding process, the State's efforts must now move address the broader tasks of planning, oversight, assisting ocal governments, and soliciting ideas from citizens or industry. The office will provide direct support to the regional broadband teams, organize an annual statewide broadband summit, report n the progress of Missouri's broadband grants, and develop comprehensive state broadband plan. In addition, the office work to provide policy makers with the information, research,
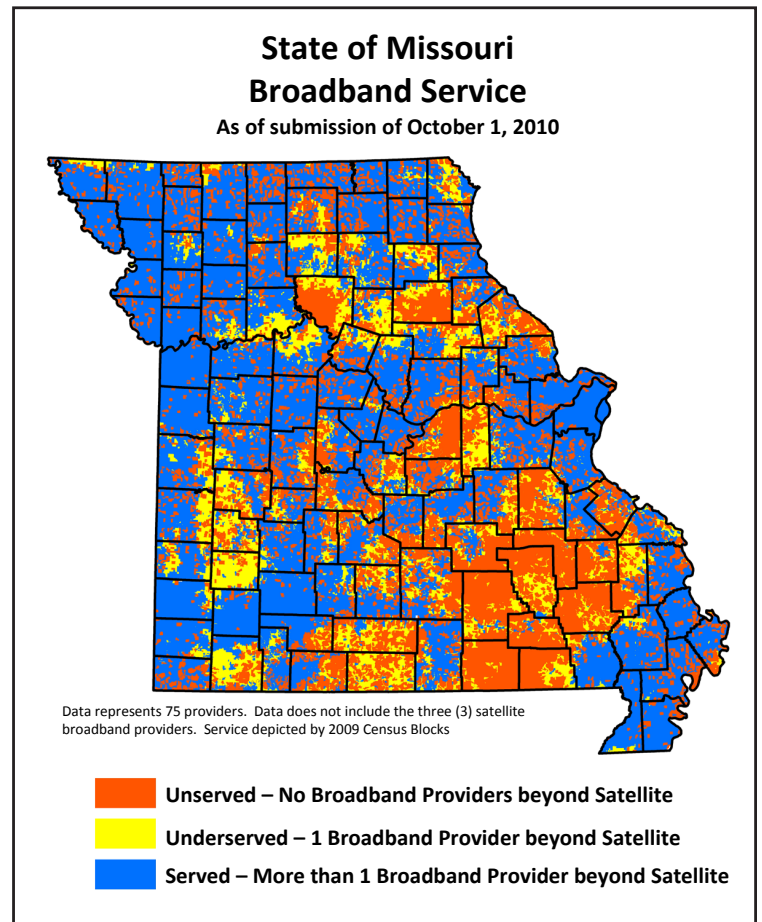
analysis, and mapping necessary to address the policy issues raised by expanded broadband, costs and rates, and the overarching Federal Communications Commission national broadband plan, recommendations, and policies.

- **Missouri Broadband Summit** – The Missouri Office of Administration will host a *Missouri Broadband Summit*, October 26-27, at the Truman Hotel in Jefferson City, bringing together 300-400 people representing citizens, providers, regional groups, and industry sectors. The summit will provide education on the current state of broadband availability in Missouri, the obstacles faced and the efforts to improve that availability.   In addition, the participants will discuss the possibilities and opportunities provided by broadband for citizens, businesses, and governments. The summit will include focused technology breakout sessions on such relevant topics as telemedicine, distance learning, services to citizens, and many others.

- **Local Regional Planning Teams** – Following the Missouri Broadband Summit, the planning activities will move into an 18-month local planning effort. Broadband regional technology planning teams will be created in each of the state's 19 regional planning commissions. The teams will include representatives from schools, higher education, libraries, workforce development agencies, the health care sector, industry, local government, economic development professionals, broadband providers, and many others reflecting the area of the state. The teams will allow a collaborative approach to ensure that these investments, and those in the future, meet the needs of our citizens, businesses, and governments. The teams will help identify the needs as well as strengths in each community. These will then be discussed and a strategic broadband and technology plan for each region will be developed. The process includes three dedicated meetings over 18 months. The teams will listen to the voices in their communities, assess the current status of broadband in the area, research and analyze the needs of the community, develop a plan, and begin implementation of the plan.

- **Technical Assistance** – Going hand in hand with the planning effort, a centralized technical assistance team will be created to respond to local requests to provide assistance, advice, and technical consultations to support new broadband deployment or adoption projects. In order to foster greater sharing of best practices, this group will also facilitate technical discussions among groups and organizations on these issues.

VIII. BROADBAND SUMMIT AND REGIONAL PLANNING

mobroadbandnow

VIII. Broadband Summit and Regional Planning

While funding awards have been made and construction begins, there are still many opportunities for citizens and business leaders to be involved in the improvement of broadband access and services in Missouri. All Missourians should participate in the statewide process by attending the Missouri Broadband Summit and the regional planning meetings. Citizens and businesses need to reach out to provide comments and input to local members of the planning committees. This grass roots effort is designed to allow you substantial input.

MISSOURI BROADBAND SUMMIT

The Missouri Broadband Summit will take place in Jefferson City on October 26-27, 2010. The summit will kick-off a long-term planning effort to ensure continued

policy makers, business, industry, higher education, schools, investors, and others. We will begin to identify those issues and gaps to be considered in developing state policy for advancing broadband availability and adoption throughout the state.

REGIONAL PLANNING FOR BROADBAND

Following the Missouri Broadband Summit, the planning activities will move into an 18-month local planning effort. A wide cross-section of Missourians will be involved in this process to ensure a diverse range of input and thought about the problems and opportunities of broadband deployment.

Broadband regional technology planning teams will be created in each of the state's 19 regional planning commissions. Having teams in each regional level will ensure the State creates an integrated broadband

enhancement of broadband access and ensure that the infrastructure meets the needs of citizens, businesses, and government. After the Broadband Summit, the 19 Regional Planning Commissions across the state will develop specific plans for every area of the state.

The summit will bring together people from all over the state representing citizens, providers, regional groups, and industry sectors. The summit will provide education on the current state of broadband availability in Missouri, the obstacles faced and the efforts to improve that availability. In addition, the participants will discuss the possibilities and opportunities provided by broadband for citizens, businesses, and governments. It will also identify strategies and priorities to improve Missouri's critical information infrastructure and the Missouri economy. The goal is to begin to lead the way for collaboration between and among citizens,

plan that addresses the varying needs throughout the State. For instance, the problems facing broadband deployment and adoption in the State's more urbanized counties may be significantly different from much more rural and sparsely populated counties. That may be true regarding the needs and uses of broadband. Similarly, the technologies deployed in the flatter regions of the state will be different than those used in more hilly terrains. Each plan that is developed will reflect the unique state of broadband development and needs of the communities therein and future objectives.

The teams will include representatives from schools, higher education, libraries, workforce development agencies, health care, business and industry, local government, economic development, broadband providers, and many others reflecting the area of the state. The teams will allow a collaborative approach to

ensure that these investments, and those in the future, meet the needs of our citizens, businesses, and governments. The teams will help identify the needs as well as strengths in each community. These will then be discussed and a strategic broadband and technology plan for each region will be developed.

The process includes three dedicated meetings over 18 months. The teams will listen to the voices in their communities, assess the current status of broadband in the area, research and analyze the needs of the community, develop a plan, and begin implementation of the plan.

The map provided shows the area of each Regional Planning Commission. In addition, a table is provided to show the anticipated time frame for the first meetings of the regional planning teams. More information on the exact dates, times, and places of those meetings will be available at the websites listed below.
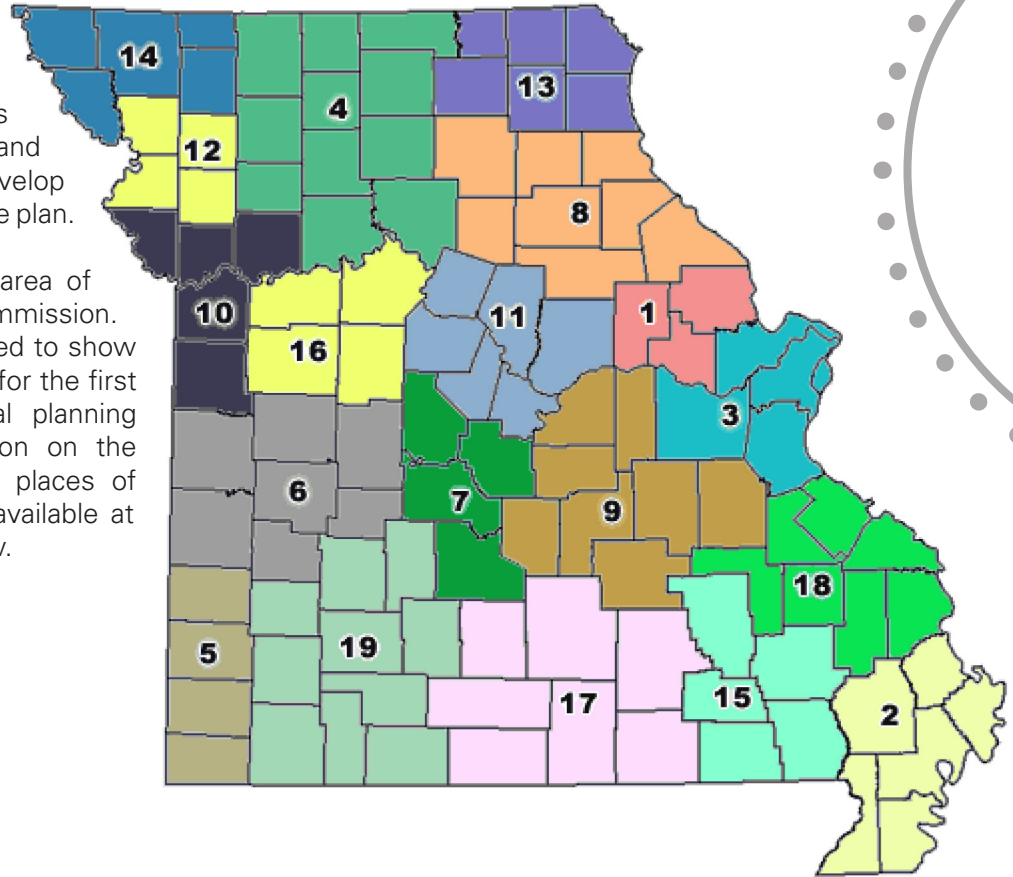
No.	Organization	Date of Regional Mtg	Website for More Information
1	Boonslick Regional Planning Commission	Jan/Feb 2011	www.boonslick.org
2	Bootheel Regional Planning and Economic Dev. Commission	Jan/Feb 2011	www.bootrpc.com
3	East-West Gateway Coordinating Council	Jan/Feb 2011	www.ewgateway.org
4	Green Hills Regional Planning Commission	Jan/Feb 2011	www.ghrpc.org
5	Harry S Truman Coordinating Council	Jan/Feb 2011	www.hstcc.us
6	Kaysinger Basin Regional Planning Commission	Jan/Feb 2011	www.kaysinger.com
7	Lake of the Ozarks Council of Local Governments	Jan/Feb 2011	www.macogonline.org/rcps/lake.htm
8	Mark Twain Regional Council of Governments	Jan/Feb 2011	www.marktwaincog.com
9	Meramec Regional Planning Commission	Jan/Feb 2011	www.meramecregion.org
10	Mid-America Regional Council	Jan/Feb 2011	www.marc.org
11	Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission	Dec 2010	www.mmrpc.org
12	Mo-Kan Regional Council	Feb/Mar 2011	www.mo-kan.org
13	Northeast Missouri Regional Planning Commission	Feb/Mar 2011	www.nemorpc.org
14	Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governments	Feb/Mar 2011	www.nwmorcog.org
15	Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission	Feb/Mar 2011	www.ofrpc.org
16	Pioneer Trails Regional Planning Commission	Feb/Mar 2011	www.trailsrpc.org
17	South Central Ozark Council of Governments	Feb/Mar 2011	www.scocog.org
18	Southeast Missouri Regional Planning & Economic Dev. Commission	Feb/Mar 2011	www.semorpc.org
19	Southwest Missouri Council of Governments	Feb/Mar 2011	www.smcog.missouristate.edu